

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government from the General Assembly website November 2009

This list was compiled from public suggestions for savings on the General Assembly website made during the period February 11, 2009, through November 24, 2009. Names and inappropriate language have been removed, but no other attempts to edit the suggestions have been made. Where possible, the suggestions have been categorized by subject area and by appropriations subcommittee. N/A indicates that the suggestion would not likely be handled by an appropriations Subcommittee, but rather a Standing Committee or the Legislative Council if it is a State or Legislative issue, or by a local government.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Human Services	Child welfare	<p>On the Iowa DHS web site it states:</p> <p>Presence of Illegal Drugs</p> <p>"Presence of illegal drugs" is defined as occurring when an illegal drug is present in a child's body as a direct and foreseeable consequence of the acts or omissions of the person responsible for the care of the child.</p> <p>I believe when a child willing takes an illegal drug and this comes to the attention of people obligated to report abuse then they have a duty to report. Drug abuse indicates there may be a problem. A lack of parental foreseeable consequence does not excuse the parent and the state from interceding. The legal system is not fully equipped to handle the full attention are children require. Possibly Human Services or another agency.</p> <p>I am not aware of a law that covers the abuse of a child without the intent of the responsible person. This is a way to help more children that have been abused don't report it, and respond by taking drugs.</p>
N/A	Civil Rights	<p>Legalize same-sex marriage to increase government revenue by over \$5 million: http://www.oneiowa.org/static/beInformed/downloads/IowaFiscalImpact.pdf</p>
N/A	Civil Rights	<p>There is a lack of touch, either between people and their reps, or between reps and the people.</p> <p>Sometimes, when I sign a petition, I am lucky to receive a reply from my Rep, and it is as mass produced as the letters I sign.</p> <p>I recently wrote to complain of the lack of rights afforded to people who are in long-term, non-married relationships. I stumbled across this issue when asking for bereavement leave to say good-bye to my partner's grandfather, who had effectively been MY grandfather for the past 6 years. I received a letter from the governor which replied "We do not regulate Bereavement benefits." While I appreciate the letter, it is not what I meant. This to me indicates my Reps and Governor is out of touch with my reality.</p> <p>Perhaps a better system of communication is the solution. A better blog, or some sort of response mechanism. It just seems that sometimes I can relate to celebrities (across the country, with nothing to do with me) better than the person who is supposed to represent me. Why? Because they hide behind big words and fancy letters paid by me, from issues that mean something to ME, and matter to ME.</p>
N/A	Civil Rights	<p>Anyone male who fathers a child where the mother applies for and receives public assistance will be incarcerated until the child is 18 years old. At that time, state benefits cease for that child. If the father cannot be located or otherwise taken into custody, public assistance is denied. That should stop a lot of britches from becoming unzipped.</p>
N/A	Civil Rights	<p>Allow the people of the state of Iowa to determine same sex marriage like the state of California. This should be put to a vote of the people and same sex marriage should not be allowed until the people have spoken. It's an embarrassment to be considered more liberal than the State of California all because we have immoral, anti-Christian Supreme Court Nominees who the majority of the people of Iowa have no clue who they are but will now. I am sure that if they were up for re-election they would lose by a landslide. It's time for Governor Chet Culver to step in and let the people decide this highly publicized and controversial legislation.</p>
N/A	Civil Rights	<p>How to improve state government would be to listen to the people before you pass judgments of moral issues. The gay marriage vote in the courts is one example of how out of control the court system can get. The people of Iowa need our right to vote on this issue. Freedom to vote on moral issues need to be done!</p>

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Civil Rights	I feel that the gay marriage should be voted on by the people of this grate state of Iowa.
N/A	Civil Rights	Let us THE PEOPLE of Iowa vote on gay marriage referendum NOW!
N/A	Civil Rights	Please focus on issues that actually impact ALL Iowans, like passing the budget- and ignore calls to address such marginal issues as gay marriage. As so many are quick to point out- gays and lesbians are a minority, so let's spend time debating issues of concern to all.
N/A	Civil Rights	Let the people have the opportunity to amend the Iowa Constitution. This used to be a democratic republic. The Iowa flag's motto is a joke with this Congress. You don't trust the citizens of Iowa.
N/A	Civil Rights	Listen to the people. Big issues like gay marriage and abortion should not be left up to a small group of democrats to decide. I loved Iowa because it was a place where I could raise my kids with strong morals and ethics, but now I would rather live in California because it seems they have more than us now. We are going completely backwards and you people just want to sit there and do nothing about it! Stand up for our State and the majority of people in our state and get back to our fundamental values and principles. Without a good foundation we are nothing and we will not last and you people just seem to be ripping that foundation right out from underneath us!
N/A	Civil Rights	Let the people vote! Time to move forward on the marriage issue. We know what our liberal judges think and we know what our politicians on both sides of the aisle think. That just leaves we the people. Last time I checked democracy was by the people for the people.
N/A	Civil Rights	Let Iowans Vote! To improve government, let Iowans decide through the voting process.
N/A	Civil Rights	Please let us as Iowans vote on "gay marriage" rather than having it legal by a court. When I was in school I learned that the judicial branch was to interpret law not make law. Please give us a chance to be heard.
Admin & Regulation	Computer standards	There needs to be uniform standards for State Web sites. The constant changing of URLs creates problems by making it hard to people to find things. The standards should apply to URLs, content, etc., so all State Web sites work similarly and are more user-friendly. The probably should be some minimum standards for county, city, and special district Web sites as well. The State also needs to do more to protect users' privacy, as well. Too many Web sites sends are putting cookies on peoples' computers! Why it this necessary? Why does the Iowa Department of Administrative Services, Human Resources Enterprise Web site require that cookies from THIRD PARTIES be put on our computers? The State is not doing enough to protect our privacy and prevent identity theft online.
Natural Resources	County Reorganization	Consolidate Conservation Boards. A half century ago things were routinely done on the county level, and their operations were small. Their functions would be strengthened if funds were concentrated in on-the-land activities and less for 99 administrative offices. Our natural resource regions should not be divided into 99 parts. Conservation Board jurisdictions should be modeled more after natural resource boundaries for greater effectiveness and cost savings.
N/A	County Reorganization	<p>Cut the size of county government and government workers across the state by combining counties and services. We could easily reduce the number of counties from 99 to 25-30 and eliminate many high paying salaries and benefits, while making the operations more efficient and would likely improve overall services to most of the counties.</p> <p>If you truly want to make a difference, you will start looking at getting rid of programs that are wasteful, ineffective or inefficient and CUT them and quit spending money you don't have.</p>

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Justice	Crime classifications	Iowa traffic law is a little outdated- background check companies report minor traffic violations in Iowa as criminal misdemeanors on a person's criminal history. As a result, a person with a speeding ticket in Iowa is a criminal! In most states, such violations are considered violations and not crimes, thus are not reportable on a person's criminal history. But the fact that Iowa considers them as misdemeanors means background checks for Iowans applying for jobs outside of Iowa are often delayed, and show a positive criminal history! Why put residents of Iowa at such a disadvantage? Stop private profiteering background check companies from making criminals out of Iowans convicted of minor traffic violations! It's a massive disadvantage to job seekers.
Justice	Crime classifications	To save the State from paying court-appointed attorney fees in less serious driving related charges such as driving under suspension, make such charges punishable only by fines. This will make the defendants ineligible for court-appointed attorneys, while still allowing the Judges to fine the defendants.
Transportation & Infrastructure	Cut Spending	Consider a review of the clothing allowance costs for State employees. I understand the allowance gives DOT employees enough money to buy an expensive pair of work boots annually. I believe a good pair of boots will last more than one year so perhaps this could become an every 3 year event, for example.
Admin & Regulation	Cut Spending	Purchasing processes need to be streamlined. Eliminate process that delay quotes or bidding or can cause them to be unnecessarily rebid such as requirements for 48 HR TSB posting. Allow public notices where required to be posted on state website rather than newspapers. Eliminate paper purchase approval processes, minimize the number of people that need to review and sign off to the minimum needed to maintain good internal controls. Recognize that it is not cost effective to bid small purchases and eliminate requirements for competitive quotes where the costs associates with obtaining the quotes far exceeds any possible savings that could be recognized and causes unnecessary delays. Eliminate useless, unclear, or contradictory Legislation that complicates and delays the purchasing process. Allow more cost effective alternative delivery systems such as design build construction processes that are widely used by both private industry and federal government as it is often both the most cost effective and timely process for construction.
Transportation & Infrastructure	Cut Spending	We seem to be up grading things that still have a major usefulness. We recently had a new phone system put in and it was quite an expensive venture and not at all user friendly. We also got new vehicles. The one I was forced to take replaced an S10 with only 35,000 miles on it. Was this a good financial choice? I also see allot of un justified overtime being worked. I had a total of 33 hours last year. I watch and try to make good decisions about my overtime. We had many who topped out at over three hundred hours and I know some of that was overtime was not necessary. Not all the high overtime worked was unjustified but I know of several who basically took advantage of our system and how we do things. We had a project where we offered a high dollar incentive to the contractor to complete his contract by a certain date. They were free to work 7 days a week and holidays to meet this dead line with no working days being charged. This gave the assigned people overtime at a high rate of pay. Was this a smart way to spent out budget dollars? I was involved in a bridge that had so many bells and whistles on it that it was hard to justify the over all cost. I think our budget could be trimmed by the designers looking at the cost of what they are doing and the extra cost they are working into the projects that are only visual effects and not necessary to the structural integrity. Just a few thoughts from the field.
Human Services	Cut Spending	State Medicaid office could stop demanding new x-rays every 12 months at Chiropractic offices. They could follow Medicare has new ones taken every 3 to 4 years. Exception would be for a new injury. This could save a bundle for the state.
Human Services	Cut Spending	Discontinue coverage for neonatal circumcision for Medicaid recipients. It is unnecessary for health and is not covered by Medicaid in 16 other states.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Cut Spending	Stop the purchase of bottled water for offices on city water supplies. Cancel newspaper subscriptions that can be reviewed over the internet. Look at reducing mid and upper level management.
N/A	Cut Spending	I am confused by anyone suggesting a tax increase as opposed to making those responsible for what they have. Government waste is atrocious!! We used to have people in our corporation suggest ways to save money with a basic way it could work and as many details as they could include. They see it every day. If their suggestion is implemented, they receive 10% of the first year savings. It was a real incentive to find ways to save money.
Admin & Regulation	Cut Spending	The State should offer only the High Deductible Health Plan, with the Health Savings Account, and the addition of "stacking" a Health Reimbursement Arrangement to the upper level of first dollar cost to reach the deductible. i.e., 100% level. This would save the state approximately 30% of current health care premium, thru this implementation; the employee base would be empowered, made accountable, and totally engaged in their health care. Also necessary would be the addition of mandatory Health Screenings, premium reductions for smoking cessation, body fat reduction, weight reduction and other lifestyle changes that increase individual wellness and decrease claims. The current system only encourages the insured to pay no attention to changing their lifestyles.
Admin & Regulation	Cut Spending	All state employees need to help state government save on energy consumption. As you walk through departments and look into offices you see numerous wastes of energy. So many employees have their own coffee makes, hot water pots, electric heaters, candle warmers, coffee mug warming plates and radios. Instead of so many individual appliances departments should enforce their employees to have central coffee makers and hot water pots that are used by all staff.
Admin & Regulation	Cut Spending	Not to long ago air hand dryers were installed in the capitol complex restrooms and the paper towels were removed (except in the Capitol and Historical Buildings). Currently paper towels have been placed back into the restrooms. WHY.....I believe there would be quite a bit of money saved each year if paper towels were removed and the public would just have to use the hand air dryers. This system works for the State Fair.
Admin & Regulation	Cut Spending	Many state employees are older. Money could be saved on health insurance, currently there is a single plan and a family plan. A "couple" plan (husband and wife) would be cheaper than forcing those people into a family plan. This should also be available for retirees.
Education	Cut Spending	I have been a teacher for 33 years in the public school. You really need to cut spending on the Area Education Agencies. Their employees have been seen taking 2 hour lunches, and teachers simply do not need all of their hyped in-services and unnecessary, inexperienced advice for students.
Admin & Regulation	Cut Spending	There is an on-line pay warrant system available for state employees who have their pay direct deposited. Currently only some departments utilize this Internet-based system. The on-line warrant has all of the information that is available on the direct deposit pay stub that is printed out. All state departments should use this system. Several years ago when the system began the savings was \$3.50 - \$4.00 for each direct deposit pay stub that wasn't written. This savings is from computer usage, staff, and paper costs and in some cases the mailing of the direct deposit stub. If all departments used the Internet based on-line warrant the savings would be immediate.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Admin & Regulation	Cut Spending	I suggest a contingency-based impartial audit of the State's telecommunication bills. Communication Auditors, my employer, conducts impartial cellular, internet, local, long distance, conferencing and PBX billing audits which have resulted in millions of dollars savings on behalf of our clients. The average savings is 10% to 30%. If no savings are found there is no fee, thus risk free. If a savings is found, Communication Auditor shares 50% of the savings for a year. During Communication Auditors' ten-year history they have saved 75% of their clients' money. While freeing the clients to focus on their core responsibilities. Communication Auditors are independent and do not sell telecommunication services. In summary Communication Auditors experts will conduct contingency-based unbiased investigation which eliminating errors and unnecessary expenses for the State.
N/A	Cut Spending	Eliminate middle management in state government which appears to be a parking place for overpaid long term state employees or the politically connected which have no particular marketable skills. The Governor is looking at Rebuild Iowa Salaries, how about the legislature also reviews the legislative branch employees making over \$100,000.
N/A	Cut Spending	Instead of hiking taxes to meet revenue shortfalls, how about cutting salaries of all elected officials in the state. There is no reason that the governor and all top law makers should make in excess of what the median income in the state of Iowa is. According to the latest census data it is above the national average. Government works for us. We should set the salary of every public servant. Excess is intolerable, waste is intolerable, and the last couple of regimes have emptied the till and are searching for ways to get more. Enough!! Until the people in the government get rid of their greedy arrogance and give up what they don't deserve, there never will be a chance to improve the Iowa government. The government of Iowa is here to serve the people of Iowa not the other way around. If government can't be responsible with money they shouldn't get anymore until they learn how to use it.
N/A	Cut Spending	Solving the Budget Problem - Quick & Easy by eliminating 50% of all state employees who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make over \$75,000 2. Spend more time with other state employees than with citizens. 3. Cannot explain exactly what they do in 7 words or less.
Justice	Cut Spending	Iowa Correctional Institution for Women is top heavy on management; they have way too much upper management for a prison that size. Here are some of the positions that they have: Warden, Associate Warden of Security, Deputy Warden, Associate Warden of Administration, and Associate Warden of Treatment. These positions overlap many of the same duties and merging some of them would save hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. They protect themselves though and are there is much nepotism, so it will be difficult to eliminate these positions.
Human Services	Cut Spending	I think that Iowa could save millions of dollars each year by cutting Medicaid benefits for routine infant circumcision. The AAP does not recommend male infant circumcision as routine treatment. It is unnecessary cosmetic surgery that costs the state of Iowa a lot of money that could go to more necessary things.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Admin & Regulation	Cut Spending	<p>Change the program for watering the lawn around state buildings for when it's most beneficial: "The experts say the best time to water your lawn is in the morning before the sun hits the lawn. It gives the ground time to soak in the water and then when the sun comes up it dries the grass tips a bit so fungus and other diseases do not have time to destroy the grass. If you water it at night, when most people do, the grass may develop fungus or other diseases because it stays wet through out the evening."</p> <p>Also - reset the sensors to stop it from watering after or during rain. What a waste of water and energy!</p>
N/A	Cut Spending - Local Government	A cost saving measure could be to change to an on-line payroll system for school employees instead of printing and mailing them every other week.
Ways and Means	Fees	To help balance the state budget, tax and license bicycles as the law requires all other vehicles which use Iowa's' roadways. This will also help pay for bike trails which the majority of Iowans do not use but have to pay for thru taxes. This would be a fair and just law.
Ways and Means	Fees	Bikes must be licensed yearly to use state funded bike trails.
Transportation & Infrastructure	Fees	Implement modest toll fees for the interstate highways, exempting holders of an Iowa driver's license or who work full time in Iowa (current licenses have IT features suitable for scanning; working here could be defined as having tax withholding deducted from a paycheck). The fee could be set modestly, at a level that would not deter traffic onto free roads or around the state.
Natural Resources	Fees	Some help for DNR. Offer a better Camping coupon. Buy 10 camping nights for 130.00 for Iowa residents and 140.00 for non-Iowa residents get one night free. Non-transferable and only good for the year bought. I like that my suggestion of offering a coupon finally took effect but there is a way to make more money with a better offer. Hunters, Fishermen, families on a budget wanting to take vacations and people just wanting to explore Iowa will buy, plus make it available on line it will make great gifts!
Ways and Means	Fees	<p>Fees for all licensing, certification and registration programs should be established at levels that, at the least, cover all of the direct costs of these programs. Consideration should also be given to covering all or portion of indirect costs, also.</p> <p>Fees for some programs are established by statute and never or rarely increased to meet rising costs. The costs of such programs should be borne by the participants; they should not be subsidized from the General Fund.</p>
Natural Resources	Fees and licenses	<p>To whom it may concern. Your fees for non resident deer hunting are beyond ridiculous. Have you read the news lately? Do you think your \$500 charge will bring many new hunters? You guys are retarded. I hope the MN DNR starts charging IA residents 25 times the price residents pay to catch our prized fish...and you can only keep one. Wake up, hunter numbers are down. I wonder why?</p> <p>The Iowa DNR blames in on the Legislature and the Legislature blames it on the DNR. Inept.</p> <p>See you,</p> <p>We are not coming to Iowa to hunt with our Farming friends. You are welcome.</p> <p>We will either hunt here in MN or go to WI, where they welcome out of state hunters especially youth.</p>
Justice	Fines	Taking away ones license for an unpaid traffic violation is not good. People are just making it and to take our license away forces these people to drive without a license. Then is caught. All because the ticket was too high and not in the budget and no payment plan available.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Human Services	Government Assistance	Follow up on individuals getting government assistance it seems we hand it out to everyone. When my husband works 2 full time jobs and I work 40+ hours to support our family it just doesn't seem right when the neighbor can afford a new car, finish off the basement, new siding, etc. The government sure pays these people well! Now she's just trying to figure out what she can do on the side for cash so she can continue to get the reduced lunches and hawk-i for her children. Instead of asking for more money to fund programs we need to look at the individuals abusing the programs.
N/A	Local Control	I would like to see local control when it comes to putting a hog farm in a specific area. To that end, factory ownership of hog farms should be banned. How can the small family farms compete with those huge operations?
N/A	Local Control	Local people should have the ability to say if a factory farm can build near them. This could be done at the city or county level by vote. (Some may be desperate for jobs and others may not want the pollution and other damage to their environment.)
N/A	Local Control	Give people local control, so they have a say in the construction of CAFOs in their backyards. Pass the VOICE legislation and limit the spending 527c organizations can spend in the state on campaign advertising. Iowa is one of only 13 states that does not regulate 527cs.
N/A	Local Control	Large animal confinement operations should be under local control. The "factory farms" of today are not the same as the hog confinement operation my family had when I was growing up. Any operation larger than can be operated by one couple and their school age children should be under local control.
N/A	Local Control	Local control, local people should have the ability to say if a factory farm can build near them.
N/A	Local Control	More local control over issues that impact each community.
N/A	Local Control	Place under local control the determination of numbers, sites, and any other county-imposed restrictions for factory farms. Increase state environmental restrictions for air, water, and land pollution by factory farms.
N/A	Local Control	Local control, local people should have the ability to say if a factory farm can build near them and campaign contribution limits and VOICE (Voter Owned Clean Elections) so people talk more in our political process and money talks less.
Education	Local Government	<p>The 2 school districts in Emmet County provide preschool services using K-12 funding. At Armstrong Ringstede they have for years provided preschool to all 4 year olds in the District. In recent years they have had parents apply for pre school funding from Community Empowerment but those parents who do not qualify only paid 30 - 100 a month for all day every day preschool. Where could any parent find day care at those prices? Estherville Lincoln Central does the same thing except for the last 2 years they have received the funding for the 4 year olds through the Statewide Preschool Grant. However they offer a preschool program for three olds and they offer free transportation.</p> <p>I understand and agree with offering preschool services and the benefits for the children BUT at what expense in these tough economic times. Most taxpayers are unaware of the funding for the preschools.</p> <p>Now the districts are cutting other programs and staff and not the programs that are outside of K-12 funding. If our districts are doing this I assume others are as well. State funding should only be allowed for k-12 programs and Districts should have to forgo these other programs until funding can be increased again.</p>

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Justice	Local Government	Consolidate building code plan review, permitting, and inspection into department of public safety. This includes taking the state plumbing code out of public health and boiler and elevator inspection out of IWD. This will reduce the cost of the programs and enable comprehensive plan reviews, permitting, and inspection.
N/A	Local Government	I want to thank you for the opportunity. To make Iowa a nicer place, get ride of the old farm buildings that no one uses. If the People who owned these buildings had to pay tax on them they may have them removed so they could farm the land.
N/A	Local Government	<p>Atalissa is a great example of the State’s negligence on Open meeting laws. There is no bite in these laws and citizens have endured for YEARS the abuse of power of Government! To abuse handicap people is the WORST case scenario of any elected official and EVERY elected official has responsibility for this failure of treatment (including the State)! In a local Government, the full time employee taking care of city services (i.e. City Manager) has the responsibility to gather ALL informed (after doing the research) information and present options to the elected officials. When they gather their packages they do their due diligence to follow up on the research and ensure the citizens are aware of the issues and give a vote that reflects the view of the electorate.</p> <p>The problem is accountability from the “City Manager” for poor guidance to lead to poor decision making. The State needs an Open Meeting law that holds these City Managers accountable for not doing their due diligence. Bad decisions come from bad information. This means training should be “MANDATORY” for every elected official doing the job of representing their office. Too many elected officials come to an office with an agenda and forget they are serving the Constitution they swore to on the day they took office. They forget their ALLEGIANCE to the Nation, State, and government they serve (Those who elected them). The open meeting law is supposed to remind them of that and get support from a higher arm of the Constitution (The judicial body). So mandate training on elected officials. Put stricter punishments on full time employees (i.e., City Managers) who provide information at decision making levels. Give access to the public to ensure that checks and balances favor the citizens and not government officials or private enterprises.</p>
Admin & Regulation	Local Government - Reorganization	Change Iowa law to enable cities and counties and school boards to use instant run-off voting in their elections. This would save money (no need for primaries) and make the winners more representative of the voters' views.
N/A	Local Government - Reorganization	Look at consolidation of townships. I think there only authority is fire protection and fence disputes. Townships across Iowa sit on millions of dollars - it is a level of government that can be consolidated or even better eliminated.
N/A	Local Government Reorganization	Reduce the number of counties in the state of Iowa. In this day of better communication systems, and better roads and transportation vehicles-why is there a need to have the same number of court houses, county jails, etc as we had when this state was established?
N/A	Local Government Reorganization	Consolidate the counties just like the schools have had to do. Too much money is spent on 99 counties.
N/A	Local Government Reorganization	I believe there would be substantial savings to public school districts if their employees could be included in the state employee group for health insurance coverage. This would result in lower premiums for the school districts, and the savings could then be used for other educational purposes, including but not limited to teacher salaries.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		I have been on our school board for 15 years, and I have never heard a reason that our teachers, administrators and support staff could not join the state employee group health insurance.
N/A	Local Schools	On the issue of school consolidation, please note that some (maybe many joint schooling agreements) cross county lines, re Maple Valley & Anthon Oto, for example, re the concept of one superintendent per county.
N/A	Local Schools	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Stop micromanaging the education system. Reduce the amount of "reports" required to be submitted to the State. 3. Find a better way to fund education's "infrastructure" needs. Property tax does not provide parity in school districts.
N/A	Local Schools	Please block Matt McCoy's proposal to close schools below enrollments of 750 students. We need these small schools (and small class sizes!) they are the heart of small town Iowa. And many are financially solvent, which would make it even more painful. My hometown of Murray is an example of a little school that offers an excellent education to its students, with many more opportunities for extra curricular activities because the students are competing with so many others. I wish my children went there now, but we live near Des Moines for the parent's jobs.
N/A	Local Schools	Have all schools start on the same day - after August 24th instead of the middle to early August. Having School begin before the 24th takes high school kids out of the working population when they would have two more weeks to earn money for school. School districts take teachers who have summer jobs out of the market place as well by starting early. When this happens there is less \$ to spend. Our district the teachers have to return back to work on August 13th this is ridiculous- All school districts should really start after labor day and that should come from the Governor Otherwise Superintend. Will not listen.
N/A	Local Schools	Consolidate small school districts and consolidate less populated county seats/courthouses. This would save money for the state of Iowa and also for local governments.
Education	Local Schools	I would like you to look into the changes that proposed for the School Lunch Program. These changes will affect the School lunch program Greatly. I am against them. For such changes to take place, it will take time, and education. Lots of money to be able to purchase the proposed foods. Please take this into consideration. Thank you.
Transportation & Infrastructure	Miscellaneous	I believe much of this is being accomplished at this time through the Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee.
N/A	Miscellaneous	I think that any contribution that are collected for anyone running for a state office (president and others in Washington should too) is allowed to only use a certain amount of the funds on their campaign same amount for each person. All other funds go into the General fund to get the budget balanced and keep Iowa out of dept. Some collect millions. Pool everything and allot \$25,000 per person. Keep thing on just the issues and you wouldn't have the mud baths and scandals, etc.
N/A	Miscellaneous	If you are going to cut jobs, try cutting management people that sit and do nothing while the lower paid employee is busting his but to make a living and getting none of the credit.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	Make it possible that a young married couple with a child can get some help in at least lower interest rated school loans so that they can go to college and try to improve their situations with a better job. My daughter and son-in-law was told that He made too much money last year because he happened to get some overtime (not getting it now) so they don't qualify for aid or enough in student loans to only work part time. They were told that if they both quit their jobs, go on welfare and food stamps then they could get a free ride. They just wanted some help. This is really SAD!
N/A	Miscellaneous	It looks as though a considerable amount of money is being spent enforcing the no-smoking ban on bars. Repealing this portion of the original bill will save a considerable amount of money and give the owners a choice again. If you are sure it was good for the businesses, then do not fear. The bar owners will choose to stay non-smoking based on their increase in sales. However, if you are wrong, you will see the bar owners revert back to smoking which will prove that the bill was bad for business.
N/A	Miscellaneous	I would like to suggest a law that would hold accountable an elected official to the promises that they make during a campaign. This would be kind of a "Truth in advertising" bill. It should also deal with false information that is spread by candidates, or any political organization about opposition candidates. This should make for responsible campaigning and allow the citizens to make an informed choice on our representatives at all levels of government.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Please do not vote for the salary that will be the same as the Union wages for the state of Iowa.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Iowa developed a habit of taking money from reserve funds and using it to cover budget deficits during the Vilsack years. When there was a surplus, the funds were not fully replenished. I would like to see all elected folks who supported such foolishness penalized in some appropriate fashion. Sterilization is too harsh. Perhaps public service announcements on TV and radio that identify clearly the fiscal irresponsibility and the culprits would be appropriate. We hear too much about what MORE the state can do for us and not enough about how it can become a smaller part of our state's economy.
Admin & Regulation	Miscellaneous	Lottery--Don't sell it. Float a bond issue for \$700 million with 30 year term at 4% interest. With the lottery's average annual proceeds of \$57 million, about \$35 million would pay on the principal and interest with the remaining \$22 million used for (name it), or at least this provides a cushion during "lean" lottery sales. The bonds could be callable in 15 years and allow the state to pay off the bonds in advance in better times. The important point is we, the taxpayers, would retain our lottery business along with a "leftover" \$22 million annually.
Transportation	Miscellaneous	Down here in Florida I notice they only have a license plate on the back. Look at the money Iowa could save if we did the same. Keep up the good work .
Admin & Regulation	Miscellaneous	Bring back touch play to 21 establishments. It was a great source of income for the state and the establishment and the best thing about it is that it is totally optional if you play or not.
Human Services	Miscellaneous	The 'Food Stamp' program needs redefining. It allows 'purchase' of junk food (candy bars, chips, soda etc). The public hears of the obesity across the nation causing health problems. I am incensed that tax money can be so grossly wasted. Public assistance is sometimes necessary, but it shouldn't be wasted. Junk food should be controlled as is gas and tobacco.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Nick Johnson makes sense about what happens to cuts made without careful consideration. Pay attention to those who you ask for advice. Thank you Bob Dos. For sharing this information from Nick Johnson. Can you share this with our Representatives and Senators in the nations' lawmakers?

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	I would like to know just how many state grant dollars are given out annually. Does anyone follow up on these years afterward to see if it's working? My point is I see many grants being funded then a couple of years later the equipment/ tools purchased with grant money is just gathering dust or thrown away. Then 5 or 6 years later the whole thing starts all over again! I wouldn't be able to waste my money like that. If you want exact details let me know...don't want to write a book on this site.
Education	Miscellaneous	Let's make it "Less Government" and use those monies into our education fund. The "stimulus fund" regarding school loans means actually nothing as Iowa is planning to raise tuition in our State colleges awhile our smaller school have to cut teachers jobs; therefore giving our youngest students through our oldest an unequal opportunity for the great education Iowa use to offer all children. Shame on those we have elected to manage our State and shame on us for electing them in the first place.
Human Services	Miscellaneous	Several years ago those on title 19 were told that they could only use ER. Rooms when it was truly an emergency. However, MANY continue to use the ER. As the rest of us use a doctor's office. Also, I have known several people on Title 19 that have had the bypass surgery to reduce their weight. In one situation the person was told to go home and gain 10 more pounds then she would qualify for the surgery. These procedure costs well over 10,000. Solution, have more stringent rules that are adhered to. This would reduce these medical expenses that tax payers absorb.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Stop discriminating against smokers! I agree that smoking is bad, but I was addicted long ago. If you were really interested in my health, rather than my money, you would ban it. Then I could quit. As far as my burden on the health care system, I pay my own way. If I did not pay my own way, I would die someday anyway and you would still have to foot the bill. Now, you want to take the dollar per pack that you steal from me and use it for other things than what you promised. That is sad.
Education	Miscellaneous	Close the three state universities between Christmas & New Years Day.
N/A	Miscellaneous	No self voted raises for high ranking government officials.
Natural Resources	Miscellaneous	DNR should issue hunting permits for hunting deer that would be delivered to local lockers. State will pay for processing and venison products given to prison system for feeding prisons. This will thin deer numbers reducing traffic hazards, increase revenue to small business and cut costs of housing prisoners.
N/A	Miscellaneous	I think this idea is great, meriting serious consideration to its adoption. It would provide an on-going maintenance program which is needed to keep infrastructure up-to-date and in good condition. This is of major importance to Iowa citizens and also a major factor in attracting business! Business has to have good infrastructure in order to operate efficiently. If they do not find this in Iowa, they will consider other locations. In my view, attracting jobs and business is our # 1 overall priority. I would further add that moving toward "green buildings" should be a part of this program. In the annual report to the Board, agencies should be asked to include information on their plans and accomplishments toward "going green". Supporting education will in-turn, support the goal of attracting business and quality jobs. However, this year, the first priority is assistance to flood victims. In this regard, I think first priority should be given to flood victims who have conducted their affairs in a responsible manner. Responsibility refers to such things as not being in a home that is clearly beyond the means of the person or family (as measured prior to the current economic crisis) and not remained a residence or business in a flood-prone area and already received assistance multiple times for flood damage.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Admin & Regulation	Miscellaneous	Instead of the State of Iowa having to bargain with several different bargaining groups, why not bring all state employees under one bargaining group. It's ridiculous that some employees have much better pay/benefit plans, such as the university employees, than other bargaining groups. All work for the state of Iowa so bring them all together. Also state employees should bear more responsibility for the insurance coverage as we in the private sector do. Thank you
Transportation & Infrastructure	Miscellaneous	On four lane highways put the directional signs in the median, instead of having two signs one for each side use the front and back of the sign. Improve interstate 80 make it 8 lanes instead of four. This would increase jobs and make the traffic flow much improved.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Governor Culver and Some of the Legislators want to protect and hold harmless teacher salary increases. Many teachers with very few years experience are now making more money for 9 months of work than other 4 year degree professionals in the social services field who have many more years of service and work with vulnerable populations also. The job of teacher is no more important or critical than the social workers.
Transportation & Infrastructure	Miscellaneous	Have one rest area on a certain part of the road not one on each side of the road. Have it in the middle of the road or on an elevated area like Ill does.
N/A	Miscellaneous	The point of the stimulus is to stimulate. Don't negate the stimulus by offsetting the stimulus by equal budget cuts. Spend into the recession, cut coming out of recession.
Human Services	Miscellaneous	Priority should be to maintain Medicaid, Hawkeye Iowa and other programs that help the most needy. Instead of persons sitting in prison have those who are safe do work that may save money.
Admin & Regulation	Miscellaneous	Span of Control In the Branstad era span of control goal was a ratio of 12 employees to one supervisor. The 12 to 1 span of control is now basically non existent in a majority of department. In my department there is one division where the Administrator when they started a few years ago has created 2 new supervisory positions. The span of control overall for this division is 6 to 1. Two of the supervisors only have 3 employees that they directly manage. There are classifications with lead worker written into the job description. Why are supervisor positions being created when there are non-supervisory positions/ classifications that could be used instead of the higher paying supervisor classifications? Thus maintaining a higher level of span of control.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Try this idea: "Iowa Retirement Coop Lottery Fund". The state treasurer could set up such a fund that all taxpaying citizens of Iowa could be allowed to invest for their retirement. It would keep our IRA and 401K money in Iowa, rather on Wall Street. The State would retain control of the lottery but have use of these investments. Our retirement funds should be guaranteed at a healthy rate of return. Win-win!
N/A	Miscellaneous	Drug Test People Receiving Public Assistance From The State Of Iowa - If The Iowa Governor Is Really serious about cutting the cost of state government, the State Legislature should give this idea a thorough vetting. Most people who work in Iowa are probably subject to drug testing where they work to earn money to live on and pay taxes to the State. If

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	Answer/Text
		<p>people who earn the money to pay taxes are subject to drug testing, shouldn't those who get public assistance from those very same taxes also have to pass a drug test to receive the money?</p> <p>This makes more sense to me than anything I've seen suggested by the state politicians or Governor. I bet the vast majority of the people of Iowa would find it a GREAT idea and would pass it overwhelmingly if given the opportunity to vote on the issue.</p> <p>I would LOVE to see the politicians try to pooh-pooh this publically... their rationale as to why this is a bad idea would be priceless! Why is it legal to drug test to earn the money to pay taxes while wrong to require those who receive public assistance from taxes paid to be required to be drug tested? Seems like things are out of balance here. This idea should be introduced for discussion and watch the politicians scramble for cover! The State of Iowa would save tens of millions of dollars if this idea were enacted in to state law!</p>
Justice	Miscellaneous	<p>I believe that the Parole Board currently denies the release of many non-violent prisoners when it no longer serves any purpose to prolong their stay in prison. The prisoners have completed required drug treatment and classes but are still being denied release. Many of them are the bread winners for their families. The cost of holding a prisoner for another year of uselessness is costing the taxpayers thousands of dollars per prisoner.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>After CIETC, one answer seems obvious, clean house. I also heard on the news today that the Delaware Township. Fire Department fired 2 employees for asking to see the budget. Taxpayer money is being handled by people who have no problem misusing it and then have the nerve to refuse access to financial reports.</p> <p>We need to go through every department of the government, fire anyone misusing OUR money and never allow them to work for us again. Until this is done, in my opinion, the taxpayers should not be asked to sacrifice a dime.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>I would like to see the early retirement process re-evaluated. I thought the process was intended to save money. The process should help costs by removing individuals from the high end of the pay scale and replacing them with someone at the lower end or, when possible, not replacing them at all. When the person is replaced by someone new, it not only should save money but should help bring new professionals into our workforce. This would be a "win win" situation. The problem is as follows: many choose the earlier retirement packages and wait the required time constraints and find another full time job in the government system doing the exact same thing. These individuals have received a bonus that only benefits them and not the state. I have seen this many times in education. Faculty or administration choose the early retirement package and end up returning to the same type of profession at a different venue in the state. This costs the state unnecessary funds and doesn't help bring in new professionals. Could the state set a rule or regulation that would prevent these individuals from re-entering the state/public funded workforce doing the same job that they just took early retirement for? I am not suggesting that they would not have the opportunity for employment in a different capacity, just not from an administrator position to an administrator position of the same or similar form. Another example would be to not allow a math educator to take early retirement and then turn around later to take another full-time math educator position in the state. I am not saying that these individuals shouldn't be able to take advantage of part-time opportunities in their past profession, just not full-time. Retirement should mean just that, retirement.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Review job descriptions, qualifications, licenses and salaries. All employees with professional titles should have requisite education and licenses and should be paid accordingly i.e. Doctors, Lawyers, Engineers, etc. I remember a story of a state doctor that wasn't even licensed in Iowa.</p>

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	Consistent Performance Reviews And Accountability. Develop a basic knowledge model that all state employees must adhere to and make sure that agencies are routinely performing employee reviews. There should be accountability and justification for employee salaries, which comprises a substantial amount of agency's administrative budgets. If a person is working in an office setting, basic abilities should be using Microsoft Office and other equipment in addition to performing the skill set of the specific position.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Exercise the 9th and 10th Amendments and prepare to exercise State sovereignty. Do not accept Fed funds and their control. The country is collapsing at the fed level.
Admin & Regulation	Miscellaneous	In keeping with transparency in government, for all executive level positions directors, assistant/deputy directors, program heads, a brief bio/resume should be included indicating the qualifications, degrees, licenses and experience of the individuals. We can get bios/CV for the leadership in publicly traded companies. We should be able to get the same sort of information for our public leaders so we can have some degree of confidence that our public leaders are qualified for their positions.
Admin & Regulation	Miscellaneous	Review the job descriptions. Most if not all of the positions appear to allow years of experience to offset years of education. I would hope it is not the case, but it is possible that a lot of managers, supervisors, even executive officers do not even have a college degree. While experience is important it can't replace a formal education particularly if all of the experience came within state government with no appreciation of the realities of the private sector and the open market economy.
N/A	Miscellaneous	The state auditor should go on the record and start providing specific suggestions for where budget cuts can and should be made. As it stands now it appears he has no specific suggestions and would rather just waste airtime criticizing the process.
N/A	Miscellaneous	With what the state information technology enterprise experts make you would think the state would have a top notch systems but the timesheet system looks like it is literally out of 1980.
N/A	Miscellaneous	What does the state benchmark compensation against? If they compare agency director or elective office salaries to a neighboring state such as Nebraska for example Iowa salaries are too high http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/epubs/P2000/B004-2008.pdf
N/A	Miscellaneous	I think we should revisit the idea that hospitals are non profit. I know better than that!! Look at how Mercy has grown over the years and all the places that they own. I have herd people say that one night in the hospital can cost over \$10,000 I call this high profit. I would bet they have to give there executives very high pay and remodel the place all the time just to keep all that money spent. I think we should start making these high profit hospitals start paying property tax.
N/A	Miscellaneous	It only takes three to break a tie, If we had the right three look at how small government could be and save millions of dollars
N/A	Miscellaneous	Voter Owned Iowa Clean Elections, so that legislation isn't influenced by those with the most money to spend on influencing legislative decisions. A bill has been introduced for this. It is working in several other states.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Stability: If a program is wasteful, it should have been cut in the past. If a program is useful, it should be continued which means raising taxes. It is time to provide stability to Iowa instead of always trying to cut to prosperity. Look at the results of 30 years of trying not to raise taxes. Iowa is a state that took a good education system and made it mediocre.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		We don't have to be great in everything, but it would be nice if we could count on state government to be responsible and do what it is supposed to do.
Natural Resources	Miscellaneous	Start making the business and industry take responsibility for their waste stream. 75% of landfill waste is from businesses. Waste mineralization and recycling are the cost of doing business. Businesses need to think of waste reduction just like preventative health maintenance--reduce waste/reduce GHG/reduce healthcare costs.
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Until the Federal government passes just and comprehensive immigration laws develop and enforce stronger worker protection laws at our state level. These laws should maintain Iowa's status as a welcoming state to all hard-working immigrants and their families, regardless of status.</p> <p>Develop a political process where Iowans as a people have the power in place of money to do the talking. This one improvement in Iowa law could eventually affect the strength of the whole nation in a very positive way.</p> <p>Give the local people the voice about whether or not factory farms can be built in their area.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to express my concerns.</p>
Natural Resources	Miscellaneous	Keep the make-up of the EPC as is!
Education	Miscellaneous	Eliminate the "phased retirement" available to Iowa State University employees. They have the option, with prior approval, to go to 3/5 time with 3/5 pay and/or 1/2 time with 1/2 pay. In reality, the productive of someone on "phased retirement" decreases while they maintain their benefits.
Admin & Regulation	Miscellaneous	The auditor's office should be taking the lead on cutting wasteful spending as they can work across the state agencies and identify abuse. Our largest cost is salaries so a comprehensive salary review across all agencies, universities, etc. should be undertaken.
Admin & Regulation	Miscellaneous	<p>A review needs to be performed on how many people commute with state vehicles. No problem with state patrol or DCI, but I suspect there are many who get a vehicle to drive simply because they are on call.</p> <p>There should be an annual approval process for commuting with a state vehicle and the approvals should come from a centralized position so it is equivalent across all agencies.</p>
Justice	Miscellaneous	What I don't understand is why the Iowa Parole Board is not allowing prisoners to be released when they have finished all treatment and classes required. In the state of Iowa there are more than 8,100 prisoners and there are only supposed to hold 7,142. Something else that bothers me is that every year hundreds of people wait for there "lay down letters", which determines if they get released or not, to only get the same letter they got the year before except for the date is different. How is that fair for the prisoners to work hard all year long to get their classes and treatment done to have the parole board just tell them that they haven't changed and they are not ready to be released back in to society . It is more expensive to house just one single inmate then it would be to have them out on parole. It is getting so crowded that now they want to send them to other locations outside of Iowa because we literally have no more room. Per day for one person to be housed in 2001 was \$85, so just think about what it is eight years later. It is estimated that by 2011 that we will have more than 12,300 prisoners. In 2001 us tax payers paid \$251,000,000 for us to house all the state inmates and there were only 7,000. Half of those inmates were supposed to be released. So tell me why they aren't?

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	Please pass the Voter Owned Iowa Clean Elections bill (VOICE). This will make a difference because legislators will not spend so much time fund raising but rather listening to Iowans. Also they will not be beholden to anyone.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Take The Unlimited Check Book Away From Schools Make Them Rebuild One School At A Time They Are In A Financial Windfall Because Of Property Tax Doubling And Tripling In The Last 10 To 15 Years Not To Mention The Penny Sales Tax They Got Awhile Back. Now That Property Values Are Down The Assessor Has Many People Over Valued And That Means Overtaxed Peoples Income Has Not Went Up As Fast As Property Tax, We Need A New Way To Figure Property Tax It Is A Crime How Fast Property Tax Went Up!!! Sure It's Good For The Schools To Waist Money, But What About The Poor??
N/A	Miscellaneous	Throw All School Money In A Pot And Divide It Equally To All The Schools And When Cutting Cost Don't Cut Janitor Jobs Cut The High Paying Positions Pay. Let's Not Forget About Christmas, Spring, And Summer The Profession With Lots Of Vacation Time.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Lower Medicare to 60 or at least 62 so that those of us "older" workers can retire and younger people can have our jobs. This will be an attraction to keep people in IA. Many of us are ONLY working for our health insurance. We would gladly quit work, but HAVE to keep working until we're 65. This only makes for old, "crabby" workers who don't want to be there! We'll gladly give our jobs to young college graduates who can't find decent jobs. Thank you.
Admin & Regulation	Miscellaneous	Require all state agencies with IT departments to utilize TeamQuest Software (of Clear Lake Iowa) to reduce the number of costly and power hungry servers.
Natural Resources	Miscellaneous	<p>My fantasy is to see two DNR vehicles in a common accident, with no one of course being hurt. Have you ever counted the number of those vehicles going down the road in a normal day? Unbelievable!!!!</p> <p>It is my belief that a lot of these people sit around trying to find ways to justify their jobs or positions. With the types of jobs that some of these people have, we as a population here in Iowa, have done very nicely without the product that these people bring to our lives. Most of these people are there because they cannot compete for a job in the private sector. They are piranhas on society and bring about insignificant rules and regulations that we as a society have done very well without for generations. They are the personification of TOO MUCH government. It would be very interesting to have those people put together a job description that justifies their existence to us as taxpayers. How do we benefit????</p>
Justice	Miscellaneous	To save the State money why not let Inmates out of prison that has completed their treatment classes? I think it is silly that The Board Of Parole has kept Inmates in again this year that should have been let out. Allot of the Inmates are bread winners for their families, and could be out working making money instead of being locked up costing taxpayers more money.
Human Services	Miscellaneous	Please consider stopping Medicaid funding for non-therapeutic circumcsions. Sixteen other states have already stopped funding it. Many private insurance companies do not cover it either. This allows the funds to be used for needed therapeutic uses. The public health benefits of routine infant circumcision have not been proven and in fact the practice is not recommended by any medical organization in the world.
Transportation & Infrastructure	Miscellaneous	How About Doing Without The Front License Plate Hard To See It As You Go By Anyway The Back Plate Is What Is Used Look How Much Can Be Saved Without The Front
Admin & Regulation	Miscellaneous	Fiscal Procedure No. 210.400 allows state employees to fly business class under specific conditions. This should be eliminated and state employees should always fly coach class.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	The LSA 2007 Iowa Factbook shows while the salaries of the Iowa legislators are 5th out of the 7 surrounding states, the salaries of Iowa's elective official are generally the 2nd or 3rd highest, and the judges are consistently the 2nd highest. As I've seen stated here many times already, the salaries need to be reined in and it appears the LISA Fact book already shows that. With the SCR2 please make sure the legislative support salaries are not excessive particularly in this time of strained state budgets.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Allow bars to pay a yearly premium to have smoking allowed in their premises. People are free to make a choice where they drink.
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>As a professor recently retired from the University of Iowa, I wish to suggest a tested idea for significantly reducing state spending: instituting mandatory retirement at the age of 70 for faculty at all state supported schools.</p> <p>After 18 years of personal observation, I have decided that the septuagenarians, at best, are the highest paid, lowest energy, and least productive faculty. Many expect to milk the system and become generally disruptive. As is done at other Big Ten Universities (Indiana University), requiring retirement at age 70 opens the way for a new generation of less costly and high-energy junior faculty to enter the ranks of academics.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of these comments.</p>
Ways and Means or Transportation & Infrastructure	Miscellaneous	<p>Stop subsidizing Gasohol in Iowa.</p> <p>I have come about and full circle in my support of ethanol and gasohol. Having an agribusiness background and being a life long Iowa resident I have moved from total support to a position of being negative on ethanol produced from corn. My opinion on the benefits of gasohol started changing when I found that the gas mileage in my cars was lower when I used the product versus regular gasoline. Next I became alarmed as I learned more about the very small to negligible energy gain when the math is correctly applied to the manufacturing inputs versus product produced. For me, it's very difficult to draw up a benefit & energy analysis that is favorable to gasohol. I'm further disenchanted with ethanol as an "alternative energy" when I see that the only avenues of success and profit for it is (1) taxpayer subsidy through gasoline road tax abatement. (2) When commodity prices, i.e. corn, ethanol, and crude oil are grossly inflated in price from additional demand on the input</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>I have a suggestion on education. I have come to the conclusion that sports and English education has really choked our educational system down.</p> <p>As to sports, we used to go out at recess time, played handy over or tag and we all grew up healthy and wise. Today it's every thing in the book, basketball, baseball, football, soccer, track, and the list goes on and on. And this is just for grade school students. This benefits a very small percentage of the students toward a future in life. Let's go back to a reasonable physical inexpensive type of exercise. That way the sports activities won't have such negative and costly impact on our schools budgets. A child really doesn't develop into a body structure for such early exercises prior to high school. The extravagant costs and deprivation of our real expectations of getting a meaningful useful lifetime needed education for our young people is a much needed process in our school system today.</p> <p>I think English only is a must for our society in America</p>
Human Services	Miscellaneous	Take a look at the high salaried employees in the Iowa Department of Public Health Maternal Child Health Bureau. Take a look at how many they send to meetings. They often send five people to do the job one person could do.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Look at getting paid overtime for taking a cell phone call after hours 3 off and cost per call you do the math.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	Cut the IPERS/TIAA-CREF benefit to Regents faculty/administrators. At the universities, the employer (read the taxpayer!) contribution to TIAA-CREF is 10%, and the employee contributes 5%. 10% in state-paid retirement benefits are ridiculous! Cut them back to the community college level! Now!
N/A	Miscellaneous	My comments on cutting wasteful spending particularly in excessive salaries by more aggressive and/or effective auditing by the State Auditor get posted on iowahouserepublicans and the Auditor is a republican but the same comments do not get posted here? Guess this site has its own agenda, perhaps protecting their own excessive salaries.
Human Services	Miscellaneous	DHS needs to look at applying for Federal Waivers not to comply. For example. Stop mailing out yearly Medicaid review forms that just end up getting filed in a record. You would save a ton on postage, envelopes, forms and employee time that can be better used to work on the volume of cases they are assigned to avoid costly errors in the Medicaid Programs. Individuals that have been in nursing homes for 2 years or longer or anyone on a waiver program are not going to have changes that have any type of impact on eligibility. Leave the responsibility to report changes to the families, agencies working with these individuals and the nursing home staff. There is too much duplication. Staff should also flag any cases that have a potential eligibility issue. Use the once a year Cost of Living Increase for aged, blind and disabled consumers as a review. No need to follow up with another costly form. As a former employee I saw this as considerable waste of taxpayers' dollars with the mailing of review forms, sometimes more than once.
N/A	Miscellaneous	I have seen businesses try to start, but have been bombarded with hoops and hurdles to jump. This puts serious dampers on people wanting to start a business, It causes huge debt and is a contributing factor into business failure, (some examples) A strip mall was trying to open on the east side, Someone from the city decided they needed to hire an engineer to design a fence to go along the top of there strip mall to hide air conditioning units, I have looked at other buildings roofs and can see there A/C units, to tell you the truth the one with the fence looks weird. The city should take a suggestive role instead of a mandatory roll. I have seen the city force people to plant trees, put up fences, dig retention ponds and the list goes on and on. I see many businesses setting empty and all that money went to waist. This is setting people up to fail, just because some people have power trips.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Get rid of the smoking ban in bars. Allow the business owners the choice of being either smoke-free or to allow smoking. DO NOT ALLOW the casino's exemption...you are driving once successful businesses out of business and adding to the casino's revenue! Is that fair to Iowan's who own these businesses? My employee's, as well beverage suppliers, towel and cleaning product suppliers, and our amusement games (pool table, pinball, and video) suppliers are from Iowa. Let's be fair!
N/A	Miscellaneous	Institute on-time funding for school districts, e.g., pay state aid only for certified enrollment for the current school year. Currently 2009 enrollment is used for the 2010 school aid formula. This corrupt formula allows schools with declining enrollment to receive money for "phantom" students who aren't in school for 2010. These schools have money but no students while a growing school gets students but no money. Much more equitable.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Halt all step increases scheduled to come into effect as stated with the Union contract. Let State employees show that they understand that this is a rough economy and just because they have been around a long time doesn't mean they have to get a pay raise.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Cut the State system of longevity pay and make it merit pay. Have employees earn increases not just get them.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>The step system in SCR 2 leads to excessive pay in short order. Why does the legislature use a step system for professional level positions? These should be calculated and periodically adjusted against the average market rates, not an automatic schedule. Anyone who looks at the range of compensation for a given position across the entire step range should be able to see that this is ridiculous. These are not low paying low skill jobs, there is not significantly more value in a 5 year employee than a 1 year employee in a skilled position unless the actual job responsibilities change which would already lead to a change in pay grade. I hope any legislators serious about fixing the budget shortfall will refuse to support this system.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>We could start by eliminating about half of the federal govt. and about a third of all state, county, and local governments.</p> <p>NATIONAL DEBT MEANS A BLEAK FUTURE FOR MAN By DENNIS CLAYSON, For The Courier</p> <p>Our so-called "leaders" in Washington are being irresponsible on a level that is almost beyond comprehension. They have and are obligating us to debt that will destroy prosperity in the U.S. for decades to come, perhaps forever. Here is just one of many problems. Suppose that you worked hard for 30 years and had managed to make \$3 million over that time period. In terms of income, this makes you solidly middle-class. You also have the virtue of frugality and through solid budgeting and you have saved \$1 million for your retirement.</p> <p>During these 30 years, various governments collected well over \$1 million of your income before you were even allowed to see it. In exchange for a part of that, the feds made solemn promises to you that when you reached a certain age, they would pay you back a proportion of your taxes</p> <p>Remember at the beginning it was suggested that you were a hardworking, frugal American who through a lifetime of hard work and saving managed to accumulate \$1 million for your retirement. The money reflects real labor and real wealth.</p> <p>After the time period when the government inflated money by 50 percent, your lifetime of work will now buy only half of what it would before. You have lost a half million dollars. This is not an illusion. The government has simply stolen half of your labor and wealth.</p> <p>By the way, you never got to vote on this either. At the same time, the government is sending you a Social Security check that will only buy half what it did before. By inflating the dollar by 50 percent, the government has done exactly the same as if they put a 50 percent tax on your Social Security and lifetime savings. Now suppose that you aren't hardworking and frugal. You are not quite as bad off, but you will still get bitten because you are now poorer. Sooner or later, with enough inflation, that Happy Meal at McDonalds is going to cost you \$50.</p> <p>No problem, some of you may say, because wages will go up proportionally. No. There is not enough money in savings and retirement accounts, and in fixed incomes, to pay the government's debts. Minimum and other wages will go up, but not at the same rate as prices. We will become as poor as if the government was taxing us directly to pay off their promises. And, at the current rate of governmental spending, that is going to be very poor indeed.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>When deciding the future conditions that Iowa workers must endure at or on the jobsite (work comp. issues, health insurance issues, etc.), it would be a good idea if you heard from some actual workers and listened to their stories before taking anything into consideration. Such as the injustices that these big corporations are doing on an everyday basis, we are at work during the day and we can't afford to take off to work drive down to Des Moines to tell OUR side of the story. However, I would use up a vacation day to have the opportunity. I don't have the money to buy you off, but I do have access to a lot of voters that listen to me.</p>

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	If you want to help our state why don't you Chet Culver, Congressmen, Senators take a 10% or 20% pay cut to help the state? Everybody that works for a company is losing their job. People that are working are working short weeks
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Hemp used to be honorably and profitably grown in the Midwest. It is a low impact crop that produces high quality oil and other countries make good money selling hemp-based clothing to America's young. But some people are scared of hemp.</p> <p>Some people are also afraid of marijuana, and not for good reason like the many suffering on either side of our southern border. Alcohol is just fine with these folks, however the most violence a stoned person is ready for is a snack-attack. A drunken man will terrorize his wife and kids (I know 1" hand). Are the alcohol lobbyists behind this ban?</p> <p>Incarcerating pot smokers has caused damage to American families. Free these people and put that money toward catching and jailing the folks who are really killing Iowa's communities- the meth users! These people are a threat to us all!</p> <p>Thank-you. I am an 88 year old grandmother so I will not sign my name.</p> <p>Ps. This is a young man's idea: Legalize pot, grow it on state-farms. Regulate sale and state taxes according to going rate.</p>
Transportation & Infrastructure	Miscellaneous	Use some of the Federal Stimulus Package to update state buildings to the standards set by the American Disabilities Act.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Stop government funding to Native Americans while they are incarcerated or wards of the state. The money should go to the state.
Justice	Miscellaneous	Cost Savings - Why don't you eliminate television and air conditioning in our prisons? These inmates are serving a term for punishment and many are instead living a life of luxury. Why don't you introduce a bill that will restrict government expenditures not to exceed inflation rate? Disasters would be the only exception.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Stop locking up all non citizens for non violent felony offences. Instead give them a 10 year deferred sentence. If they step foot in Iowa again sentence imposed. We could also decriminalize marijuana and make anything under a pack of smokes a fine and save tax payer dollars on prison and treatment while making revenue on fines.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Pass Bill SCR 1. It will protect the state of Iowa and its people under the tenth amendment of the Constitution of the United States. If the federal government violated the Constitution of the United States we as a state have the right to disagree with the federal government. The states created the federal government not the other way around. Don't let your freedom be trampled on pass SCR 1.
Human Services	Miscellaneous	For years, the DHS administrative rules have mandated national accreditation for agencies serving the MH/MR/DD population. This is a major expense to Iowa taxpayers, inasmuch that the same expertise can be found in-state, would save thousands of dollars annually, and thus keep taxpayer money in the State.
Human Services	Miscellaneous	Cut the red tape re: Medicaid prescriptions. Pharmacies have to carry expensive brand name medications that are available generically because XIX requires it. It costs us in duplicate inventory & expensive at that.
N/A	Miscellaneous	A complete study of the utility board needs to be completed to determine any motives for placing such burdens on the Marshalltown Alliant Energy project.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Dear Legislators;</p> <p>The only way The Iowa Legislature can function the way God intended is for the Legislators to work together and stop spending time trying to make the other side look bad.</p> <p>Legislators are so entrenched in their ideology and agendas that it almost makes them dysfunctional and the other side is needed for balance if they are willing to work together. Once this balance is achieved, the legislators can function to face the issues that are facing the electorate and help the electorate to solve these issues.</p> <p>All that happens over the years is that one side goes too far with their agenda and is then voted out and then the other side does the same thing. It is ridiculous!</p> <p>Sincerely yours,</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>If Religion has to be separate from government, then why shouldn't labor unions be separate? This year it seems that the unions are running the state. You can look at GM and see how that worked. Please no more help for the unions.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Why am I getting laid off while co-workers are getting raises just because they've been sitting rotting for 30 years at a useless state agency? Despicable, and yet no one will do the right thing. Got to love that famous Iowa "good morals/nice people reputation", right? It'd almost be funny if it wasn't so nauseating.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>I used to volunteer for the State Historical Society. After my terrible experience there I have to say just shut the place down. It was totally dysfunction, unprofessional and not well managed (if at all). For example: How can an employee leave early (hours) routinely and nothing is said? It was obvious to me this was happening and I only volunteered there briefly. The longer the employee was there the worse they were. I can't volunteer there again. Save the budget millions closing this place down or merging it with another department.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Do away with union longevity pay and introduce merit pay this will prevent long term employees skilled, up-to-date and service orientated.</p> <p>Second, do away with union imposed restrictions on furloughs and step increases.</p> <p>Third, forego the agreed upon pay raises for State employees agreed upon with the union. It is ridiculous that State employees are getting raises this year when the legislature won't fund them and the economy doesn't support it. This would be a good thing for agencies as they will not need to lay off people to cover raises and the Union would look like it cares.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Require all State employees to take two days off a month without pay to cover agency shortfalls and save utilities. Although, this hurts the employee's pay it equals basically to forgoing the Union agreed upon pay raised schedule to take effect this next fiscal year. Does the State Museum really need to be open every day? Who goes there anyway? State employees really should be thankful they have jobs (highly paid at that) and not be so worried about lost pay. Look around! Many across this State and country are in this position. Furloughs have a very bright side by enabling more family time, saving \$ on commuting and day care costs, and save on lunches out. Rejoice in knowing that you are saving your fellow employee's job thus reducing your future work load!</p>

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	Let's stop encouraging government waste! Every year you give departments money and if they don't spend it all they are supposed to turn it in to the general fund. But the next year you give the departments exactly the amount they used the year before. No one would want to save in fear they may not get as much the following year when they may not be able to save as much. Maybe you could reward them by raising their next fiscal budget by half of what was saved the previous year. But, you would have to break it down by work sites operating budget not just by department.
N/A	Miscellaneous	I think one way to cut school costs is to quit subsidizing the teachers with cheap lunches. If all of them would pay \$2 more it would make a huge difference. Other wage earners don't have this privilege, and they work year around. Teachers complain, but only work 9 months, and take jobs away from teens and others in the summertime.
Justice	Miscellaneous	Iowa needs to quit being good to prison inmates. As the Sheriff Joe Aripaio of Arizona says, why should they have it better than the soldiers do? They pay 40 cents for food, only see Disney and weather TV. They work free at county and city projects and the local animal shelter. No smoking, coffee, and wear pink. The idea is to make them not want to come back, and it works. No porn, only G movies. Criminals should be punished for crimes. Our own grown kids are not as coddled as they are.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Government needs to be run more like a profit making business. You can not spend what you do not have. You can not base budgets on gambling profits. Iowa seems to be running like AIG. Spend, Spend. Give officials raises for poor performance and then tax, tax, tax. Remove Homestead Credit, another way to hide raising taxes. We need to look at our schools, especially universities. They should be for education, for students to learn. Not for sports and paying coaches more than 10 to 15 teachers, something is way out of wack and needs to be put back in line. Each spending like should be looked at and many cuts need to be made. Priorities need to be set and stuck to. Thanks
N/A	Miscellaneous	First, the legislators need to remember who put them there, and why. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate PAC money. We need a legislature that is not for sale. Not to the Horse Racing Association, not to the Beer Wholesalers (read Anheuser Busch), not to anyone. 2. The economy is tough, yet they make it hard to start new business. Why can't Jasper Winery start a Brewery? 3. Why does beer have to be distributed through the State? 4. Visit these types of archaic laws, and get rid of them. 5. Don't spend weeks debating. The voters all see them as bad laws, why can't you? 6. Oh yeah. PAC money.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Persons receiving government aid (food stamps, housing assistance, welfare, etc.) must pass a drug test before receiving their aid. This would greatly reduce the number of people abusing the system and help those that are truly trying to get themselves back on their feet and be a productive part of society. The money saved could be used to offset the cost of administering the drug testing.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Get rid of paying for meals. Don't plan meetings to include a lunch. I work in a building everyday that doesn't serve food. I either bring my lunch or go out of the building on my own lunch time and spend my own money. Meetings set between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. are only a way to be a real pig with the taxpayer's money. Another suggestion is to get someone to read these and really do something instead of just protecting your own territory.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	Have a government that is for the people and by the people not one that is by the lobbyist for the lobbyist. Nobody seems to care about the people in the state of Iowa only what the lobbyist want and only if they are paid the big dollars.
N/A	Miscellaneous	For none contract employees stop matching deferred comp. IPERS is enough. Then next contract negotiations need to stop the practice of matching.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Need to stop letting farm and construction vehicles not licensed for the road on the road. Make them buy tags of some sort. This over sized equipment is tearing up the roads that already need repair.
N/A	Miscellaneous	I would like to know why skill based games for cash and prizes are illegal in Iowa yet you allow games of chance with the casinos and the lottery, this is very hypocritical in my opinion and should be changed!
N/A	Miscellaneous	Every business and every government has waste. It may be useful for the State of Iowa to hire a Lean consultant with office Lean experience to work with the state on its inefficiencies. It will save the taxpayers money and make the state more competitive with its neighbors.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Reform the prohibition era laws that prevent craft brewing in Iowa. We're missing out on a hot industry that will help retain Iowa's youth and generate revenue/create jobs. I spent a summer in Denver, CO which has been called the Napa Valley of craft brewing. There are close to 100 award winning microbreweries within 2 hours of downtown Denver. It's something that many 20-30 year olds will love and it doesn't mean more alcoholics. In fact people drank less because the brews had higher alcohol content. We can't sit around and let the opportunity pass us by.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Recognize and uphold the Iowa and US Constitutional rights that Judicial and Government officials continue to ignore in personal and in official capacities! As well as stop wasting tax payers money!
N/A	Miscellaneous	Here's another idea, why don't all the legislatures, senate, representatives and Governor take a 5% pay cut to show us how serious they really are at cutting the budget?
N/A	Miscellaneous	Change the Sex Offender 2000 foot law as you had planned on doing, so law enforcement is not working overtime looking for an ex-offender as they are currently doing! Uphold rights that have been restored and not ignored as you continue to do when it comes to rights of the Constitutions of both the State Of Iowa and the US!
N/A	Miscellaneous	Do a full audit of all government billing and contracts to find errors, overbilling or billing for things that are no longer in use or no longer needed.
N/A	Miscellaneous	One Building Code Board governing ALL Building Trade Licensing - not three. (Or two Boards: One for Commercial to Heavy Industrial and the other or One- and Two-Family Dwellings -- for enforcing commercial codes and licensing on residential homes is NOT realistic.) Proposed SF 159 created a board, SF 224 will create another board, and HF 400 will create a third board -- Ever built a structure under three different boards who are not communicating with each other? Ever tried to monitor and standardize three different boards - Three boards are not cost effective and is unnecessarily duplicating services.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>If only one Building Board is created - divide residential codes/licensing from Commercial codes as the International Code Council has done. Stop enforcing unrealistic Commercial Public Restroom codes (Uniform Plumbing Code) on residential existing homes hooked up to city services.</p> <p>Unrealistic standards are causing our older homes to be boarded up. These older homes were built before codes and licensing and most at the turn of the century -- but yet are still standing and not a single one meets today's codes.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	Treat all employees paid with State of Iowa tax dollars equally, i.e. Education, DHS, DPS, DOC, Judicial, etc. Under current budget proposals, there is a great deal of inequality.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Licensing cannot be a requirement in obtaining local permits for one and two-family dwellings or farm properties. Only the owners of the property or owner's authorized Agents are permitted to pull permits (as per the 2006 International Residential Code Book R105.1 and adopted by the State of Iowa). Licensing as a requirement to obtain permits was also removed from the 2003 Uniform Plumbing Code 103.1.3 through an agreement with HUD. However, the wording in Iowa Code Chapters 103 continues to take this right away from owners and looks to stay this way for another year. Chapter 105 changes (SF 159) signed by the Governor is getting better, but not there yet. Chapter 103.10 (SF 224) wording we need to be the most concerned with at this time.
N/A	Miscellaneous	It's time for the states to reassert their federal character in this Constitutional Republic. Give power back to the states by pushing for a repeal of the 17th amendment to the US Constitution. The Founder's gave the appointment of federal senators to the state legislators for a reason. By repealing this it would restore federalist character to our republic and put power back in the hands of the legislature.
N/A	Miscellaneous	I would like to see a requirement of all newly elected city, county and state candidates they attend a class on government and their duties, responsibilities and limits. Most problems with small town government are the elected officials do not know what they can and can not do, or are supposed to do.
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Stop fluoridation. You will save Iowa millions of dollars by stopping the addition of fluoride chemicals into public water supplies which is a failed effort to reduce tooth decay in tap water drinkers.</p> <p>The American Dental Association and the Centers for Disease Control now advise that infant formula NOT be mixed with fluoridated water - but that message is not getting out to the public.</p> <p>The CDC reports that up to 48% of US school children are fluoride overdosed and sport dental fluorosis - white spotted, yellow, brown and/or pitted enamel.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	Your attempt to nullify the Supreme court ruling to allow same sex marriage is misguided and malicious. The rights of a minority should never be stripped by a simple majority vote and that is what the right wing leaders are trying to accomplish. These couples deserve recognition, respect and support through marriage. Regardless of where each of us stands on the spectrum of our own religious beliefs, treating our fellow neighbors with the equality we want afforded to us is a universal truth.
N/A	Miscellaneous	You need frugal minded people in charge of the government these people can do allot with little if these people were in charge of things our taxes would be less than 1/2 of what they are now! Some examples for you. The new freeway a huge waist of money if the objective was to have taller bridges to meet today's standards (as I have herd) Make the road lower this would have made the bridges taller and saved a ton of money.. The black vinyl fencing cost twice as much as a galvanized fence. The white and blue paint just caused an ongoing eminence

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		problem. The white paint is peeling already over by University. I could understand if they painted the beams under the bridges to keep them from rusting. These are the kind of things that happen if you have a bottomless check book and the wrong people in charge.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Check on the workers compensation department. They are taking more and more people off the tax roles when these people can and should be working. Just in the first 7 days in February 3, (Yes that is three), have been declared to be totally unable to work. This "determination" then places these people on Welfare rolls. The insurance company does not cover everything and many times they are not disabled under Social Security.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Build a Casino that is owned by the State of Iowa. Then, have the money (other than paying the employees) go to the general budget.
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>One way to reduce the budget concerns would be to do away with unnecessary, irrational state funding groups. It seems to me that it is a waste of State money to have a Power Fund that can have a budget of close to 25 million dollars to provide out. It isn't really helping the state of Iowa taxpayers any. Also, why does the Department of Economic Development get a portion of money from everyone else - every bill seems to ensure that they get their fingers on a little bit of the pot (DNR programs, Power Fund programs, etc.) and there is nothing to show what is done.</p> <p>I'd also suggest that there be more structured reports from all state agencies. I should be able to go online and see what specifically was the budget, how it was spent and to see the deliverables! What did my money pay for????</p>
Economic Development	Multiple Suggestions	You can start by providing incentives for businesses to come to Iowa and hire. Right now, the cost of living here far outweighs any incentive to work here or start a business here. Instead of a tax and spend system, try tax cuts and small business incentives and watch what happens! Repeal the cigarette tax.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>More use of ICN for meetings. This would cut down on cost such as hotel stays, meals, gas for state vehicles, maintenance on state vehicles, paid time spent on travel time & time spent on cell phone pullover time(if no hands free).</p> <p>Unnecessary time spent with the motor running in vehicles when not occupied or when occupied when work is being done. In years past there wasn't air conditioned trucks.</p> <p>Unnecessary salt usage of snowplow trucks. Leaving the trucks salter spin when pulled over.</p> <p>Documents being faxed could save paper when documents could be scanned. This also could save on postage as well. These documents that are sent to several offices and each office makes their copies could save paper with scanning and put in folders on the W drive. You would also cut down on envelope usage too. Go Green!</p> <p>Cell phone usage could be cut down also. You have workers that use these and spend allot of time talking to other employees or non employees. This should be monitored by the supervisors of these employees' supervisors.</p>
Ways and Means	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Ideas to save \$400 million or increase revenue by that amount:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the cost of an Iowa Lottery ticket to \$2. 2. Place toll sections on I-80, I-380 and Highway 20. 3. Increase fees for oversize truckloads

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Place a \$1 surcharge on all truck DOT inspections performed by truck repair shops. 5. Mandate that all state owned vehicles (i.e. state patrol, DOT, and state vehicles) be smaller, front wheel drive fuel efficient units. 6. Place a \$1 dollar state appropriated cover charge for all patrons at bars and restaurants. 7. Legalize prostitution and marijuana for tax and licensing fees. 8. Lay off 1 state employee from each of every single state funded department. 9. Pay reductions for each and every state employee, union and non union. 10. Have each department head submit a plan to decrease spending in their respective departments. 11. Lower the thermostats in every state owned building in the winter and raise in the summer by at least 1 degree. 12. Make it a priority for every single state
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Develop and follow through on an oversight to government paid programs to eliminate ALL unnecessary AND frivolous charges, and sticking to the absolutely necessary programs in light of the current economy.</p> <p>Spend hard earned Tax dollars wisely.</p> <p>Consider the jobs actually created by spending on Bike trails and other recreational areas-VS helping local Iowans retain current jobs and creating new jobs by offering incentives to businesses for development in Iowa.</p>
Transportation & Infrastructure	Multiple Suggestions	<p>What ever happened to "Span of Control"? It seems to be virtually non-existent at the DOT. Quite a substantial number of the employees are either Supervisors, or Lead-Workers, or Managers. With less than twenty workers under their management classification. A substantial savings in over all payroll could have been realized in many opportunities over the last thirty years, but "Span of Control" has never been enforced, resulting in a much too Top Heavy, inefficient organization. Too many Chiefs with very few Indians are never a good idea.</p> <p>Extremely wasteful use and management of DOT vehicles.</p> <p>Extreme waste of fuel, oil, filters, tires, car washes, replacement parts maintenance, employee hours, and other support services. Far too many vehicle miles are driven needlessly each day. Every department appears to have the attitude that this is some "Other" department's responsibility. Far too many personnel being sent to off-site meetings as just one minor example. Strict vehicle tracking records and policing need</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Please quit spending money. EVERYTHING CAN NOT nor should be funded. Sometimes you have to say NO!!! Government is not here to take care of all of the needs of the public.</p> <p>Please work to limit the role of government in our lives and work to only bolster the common and universal things that government is to regulate.</p> <p>Please in all you vote and do, do so in a highly ethical and moral manner first and use that as a guide for saying yes or no to every vote and bill.</p> <p>If you say you are going to do something. DO IT!</p> <p>Please remember you are a public servant. You should be entitled to no more benefits of any kind than the average tax payer. You are not in a position of power but in a position of humble servitude. Please act like it, in all that you do, say, and vote on.</p>

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>Please preserve our families by keeping our unborn children alive and keeping our family unit together with one man and one woman as the only option for marriage.</p> <p>Thank you for your servitude to the people of Iowa, in representing what is best for the Iowa population as a whole and for not kowtowing to any specific group, organization or party.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get working on reducing the number of counties and towns. Everything there is based on an outdated way of living. 2. Start plans to develop a two-year budget, and have the legislature meet biennially. 3. Eliminate the allowed build up of sick leave into a sick leave bank that folks save to be paid out when they quit. This was not intended to be used in that way, but is an abuse of a benefit that no one outside of government has. This may only apply to school employees. 4. Have government employees pay a share of their health insurance, like the private sector does. 5. Eliminate the rule of 88. Currently government employees can receive full employment when their years of employment and age add up to 88. Too many government employees can draw full retirement beginning at a much earlier age than private sector employees can retire with full benefits, if they have a defined benefit plan. This causes the cost of IPERS to grow and grow and grow. Tax payers pay for that, so all private sector taxpayers are helping government employees enjoy a level of retirement income many of the rest of us will never see. That is very wrong, and is the kind of issue that causes private sector people to have animosity toward government employees.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Let the land owners mow their own ditches (as Missouri) along the state & county highways. And the state continues to mow the interstates, at a minimum. The land owners would get a fine if the ditch was not mowed by a set date. 2. Drop the fee for out of state hunting license to attract more hunters to Iowa...more hunters...more revenue to the businesses etc. 3. Let the teachers do more work. Get rid of teachers aides. The 'poor' teachers need to earn their income. 4. Cut the salary on the Judges. Letting sex offenders out of prison is the most ridiculous idea EVER! What about the victims. These offenders cannot be cured. These will be back in prison within a year & will continue to cost the state...again. 5. Withhold from Penny Westfall's (director of Iowa Law Enforcement Academy) salary for making it a requirement for all the Reserve Officers within the state to take all the exams, as required by the academy for certified officers to take. The small communities rely on the help for patrol & assistance when needed, who work for FREE in our smaller areas. Now our FREE VOLUNTEERS will be fewer when they find out the cost & time it is going to take to do this training & testing. The reserves already do monthly training to be with the Sheriff's Office. She obviously was not thinking of clear mind when she came up with this idea! 6. Relating to those less fortunate, who seem to have a cell phone, internet service & cable TV & are on state assistance...The state should have its own provider for all the stated amenities. These individuals would have to pay the state a monthly fee for these luxuries rather than outside companies making money. Then as a tax payer I would feel somewhat better knowing the state is getting some of the money back. 7. Save money on medical expense by putting a limit on how many kids a woman can have & be on state assistance. Example. If on state aid with one child, on state aid with the 2nd child...that is all the state will pay. Some of these women make it a paying job to continue to get pregnant. I do not think it would be out of line for the state to pay for a tubal on these women after the 2nd child...we're paying for the birth's skyway...might as well help control the population. These kids in this type of environment will grow up with the knowledge of how to work the system.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Education	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Education needs to be a priority of the state. This includes K-12 AND higher education. Both areas need to be increased to the AT LEAST the previous year with other areas taken more of a burden.</p> <p>Preschool education should be the priority of the parents. This needs to be taken out of the budget.</p> <p>With the exception of government jobs that require a state vehicle (i.e. a truck to pick up a part), employees should have to drive their own cars and get refunded through the federal government on taxes.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>I have two:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Change the state law so that cities and counties can hold instant run-off elections. This would eliminate primary elections and save money for local government as well as provide results more closely aligned with majority opinion. 2. Legalize Cannabis - both kinds; this would allow growing cash crops that would use less fertilizer and no pesticides; free up a lot of jail and prison space; increase tourist income very substantially, boosting local economies; and contribute considerable amounts of tax dollars to the treasury.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate the "Tobacco Control" official 2. REDUCE taxes on cigarettes by 50 cents per pack to REGAIN revenue LOST to other States (such as Missouri) 3. REPEAL the smoking ban in BARS (ANY place that's sales are 50+% alcohol) to get the people back in them (spending money) to REGAIN LOST sales tax and alcohol tax REVENUES 4. Eliminate 50% of the Highway Patrol and the "blue car" DOT employees,,, we'd still have TOO MANY (for the population we have).
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Simple, no-cost solutions that benefit the common good:</p> <p>Local control of livestock confinement location. Local people should have the ability to say if a factory farm can build near them; strong worker protection laws and children's health insurance that works for everyone - regardless of immigration status; a mortgage broker duty of agency and other efforts that protect homeowners and consumers; and, campaign contributions and VOICE so people talk more in our political process and money talks less.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>The legislature needs to focus on ways to make State government more effective and responsive in meeting the needs of Iowans. In most cases this will reduce the cost of government.</p> <p>The Food Stamp program currently pays for carbonated drinks such as mountain dew. Lots of studies prove that such drinks are one of the leading causes for obesity, tooth decay and diabetes. The resulting effects on State Government are increased costs for Medicaid, health insurance costs for State employees, increased overtime pay and reduced tax revenue due to lost wages.</p> <p>Court costs can be greatly reduced and at the same time improve the Judicial system. Many law suits would be avoided if the legislature would make the looser pay all attorney fees and court costs.</p> <p>Many repeat court hearings would be eliminated if the legislature would create an effective way to enforce civil court orders and judgments. Putting people who are not a threat to society in jail usually is a poor solution because it increases the cost of jails, another State expense. In-addition to saving the state lots of money, children would be big winners because more child support will be paid and destructive parents will not have access to their offspring. Convicted criminals should always be fined enough to cover the cost of law enforcement and court costs so that those who can repay society for the burden they have placed on it.</p>

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow smoking in bars. Sell them a permit if you want, but make sure casinos have to buy a permit, too. Base the fee on annual net profits. Small businesses would pay less than larger ones. 2. Don't tear down perfectly good rest areas to build new ones. Update if necessary. 3. Don't waste legislative session time on trivial matters like mourning doves and smoking bans. Think about the consequences before passing laws that are not needed. 3. Promote small businesses by making it easier to start small businesses and keep them running. The more small businesses there are, the more revenue there will be.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Pursuant to the Waterloo Courier's article stating the state is seek citizen budget ideas. While there are numerous ideas for changes and investments to long-term prosperity, these might plug some of the holes in our current budget with immediate affect :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limit ditch mowing to one pass on all roads. Labor, fuel, equipment savings. 2. Convert and sell minimal use roads to private land owners. Immediate sales revenue, increases taxable values, lower maintenance expenses, makes land productive for economy 3. Streamline income tax code to flat tax. Improve Iowa marginal tax rates (makes Iowa more competitive for business development), lower processing costs, lower audit costs, revenue neutral, and cost positive. 4. Merge county organizations. Sell facilities, lower maintenance expense, create additional taxable property, consolidate management expense, and share assets. 5. Merge school districts. Sell facilities, lower maintenance expense, create additional taxable property, consolidate management expense, and share assets. <p>I hope these items can be accomplished. There are tremendous forces against fiscal sensibility, but with the right leadership, with a desire for change we can do it. Good luck.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Offer the same medical coverage options to all state employees from the Governor's office, Board or Regents, any and all top management down to any clerical employee.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have the Legislators meet every other year instead of every year. 2. Allow the use of effective performance review and justified discipline for all state employees. Currently poor performing employees do as they wish and are just moved around until they resign or retire. Consider having full time human resource attorneys at manager's disposal to insure fair and valid discipline is exercised up to and including termination. 3. Reassess the rules for approving a person receiving State funding to support themselves. With all the emotional and physical drugs available for a person to maintain a reasonable lifestyle, why is Chronic Stress Disorder still an acceptable medical reason for us taxpayers to support them? 4. How could a person receiving State support afford to pay over \$500 to buy a dog? I met someone who did so. Also, if a person is able to own a car, pay for their auto insurance and drive all over the State visiting friends and family, how come they are not capable enough to work?

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pass the Puppy mill inspection bill. 2. Lift the cap on beer that has to come through the state. 3. Bring fairness to the smoking ban. 4. The Supreme Court has ruled on Gay marriage. Don't waste our money trying to change it.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Merge all the "special" funds (i.e., Vision Iowa, Power, etc.) back into the general fund where they belong and appropriate money based on importance to ALL IOWANS. 2. Keep your money-making assets (if something is not benefitting Iowans in some way, then consider selling or leasing it). 3. Eliminate spending on parks, trails, etc. until the basics like infrastructure are funded to an appropriate level. 4. Do not create new positions or programs, and review for elimination all the ones that have been put in place within the last 5 years.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Decrease the number of Child Protection Workers by not having a worker perform an investigation on a case that is also being investigated by a law enforcement agency. There is no need to have two agencies do the same investigation; law enforcement can do virtually the same things such as removing a child from the home, etc. as a Child Protection Worker can. Calls would still come in to the call center but there they would decide if the case should be handled by a worker or if police involvement would be necessary. This would also help protect children as police agencies work 24/7. They also carry weapons and are more protected and have knowledge of the laws unlike many workers. Again no need to have two agencies work on the same case.</p> <p>The state could also eliminate the IRS by running some figures to see how much of a sales tax would be needed to even out what is paid in income tax. This would be less time consuming and fairer, plus it makes visitors foot some of the bill.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>I have been employed by the State of Iowa for almost 33 years. I know there are many employees, like me, who have met the "Rule of 88" but continue to work because of health insurance. Although state employees are now able to receive some value for built up sick leave through SLIP many, especially those who have been in ill health as they approach retirement, do not retire because they need health insurance. The state could save considerable money by offering those eligible for early retirement health insurance until they are eligible for Medicare. Here is how I see this working:</p> <p>Prior to July 1, 2009 any employee eligible for early retirement or any employee age 60 and older must declare their intention to retire before February 1, 2010. To avoid the potential for employees to use up banked sick leave prior to retirement, the value of banked hours should be calculated on July 1, 2010. This would become the amount payable for insurance before the state begins to pay for the "early out insurance". For example, I would be 59 years old at retirement and would have at least 3 1/2 years of SLIP insurance. The state would then pay my insurance premium for 2 1/2 years until I qualified for Medicare.</p> <p>My proposal would be beneficial to the State as most of us eligible for retirement are at the top of our pay scale. If a hiring freeze were in place our entire salary and most of our benefit costs would be saved. If and when new hires replace us, the cost could be significantly lower both in pay and benefits.</p> <p>Here is a real world example:</p> <p>The Social Worker pay series and the Program Manager pay scale have approximately a \$20,000 difference from the bottom of the pay</p>

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>scale to the top of the pay scale. Benefits are lower for new workers hired at lower levels of the pay scale. The savings would be significantly more than the payment made for the "early out insurance benefit".</p> <p>I urge you to consider this approach. It would be effective in initially reducing the number of FTEs and eventually allow for savings as FTEs are increased as the new employees would draw lower salaries and their benefits would cost less.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. State employees are interested in what is best for the state. With a little help toward health insurance we are in a position to do our part to lessen the state expenditures.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Suggestion to save money.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have city, school, state employees attend conferences, workshops, training forums, etc. in the state. 2. Put a moratorium on legislator retreats. 3. Have business conferences, meetings, etc using modern technology, such as, teleconferences, video conferences, etc. 4. Have training and education for recertification's done using on-line services. 5. Reduce number of take home vehicles use to law enforcement, emergency responders.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>To save money and reduce the size of State government:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sell the State run liquor business. This would eliminate a large administrative expense. The State could still collect tax on liquor sales without incurring the expense of running the business of liquor distribution. 2. Sell the ICN. 3. Eliminate the Dept. of Human Rights.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Stop double taxing as like the fed tax deduction? Or like the \$1.00 tax on tobacco and now the feds 0.65 cents, let's reduce the Iowa tax down to 45 cents? Tax election fund receipts as income to the individual, just like a waitress tips are taxed; they are the same type of income. How about expense accounts for law makers should be changed to Mileage, and housing only if 70 miles away ,the average commute in Iowa is 70 miles so again the Polk lawmaker should not receive this stipend, its not fair for a Polk county law maker get the same as a davenport lawmaker.</p> <p>Let's make it a law that lawmakers must respond to the people of Iowa when they are called? I was told today they did not have too? Then maybe they should turn in there pay? What are there duty's then to earn this pay?</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Ways to improve State Income.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look at the possibility of farming hay or other crops between interstates and highways, would provide income for the State and keep areas mowed. 2. Lower out of state hunting and fishing license cost, this would bring more hunters and fisherman to the state increasing revenue for business. 3. Consolidate county court houses, no need for one per county.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Admin & Regulation	Privatization	<p>Do away with the myriads of duplication at the agency or institution level.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Human Resources. Why does each site need its own staff? Companies are now combining HR into 'shared services' departments and the state needs one. At the very least, the Regents institutions ought to be able to function with one centralized HR department. 2. Outsource payroll. Financials should be centralized to avoid duplication. The state should maintain a central accounting department so that audits are less necessary and more streamlined. 3. Outsource janitorial and construction services so we are not paying benefits to so many staff.
N/A	Privatization	<p>Need to look at why we are paying a private company to administer the Hawk-i Program when state computers and state employees are already set up to handle it. Stop kowtowing to the private companies. Take a look at the process and you will realize that the state can save at least 7 million dollars a year in these costs. Talk to employees outside of the Des Moines Circle. Legislators should schedule meetings with staff in their district at least once a year and hear what is really going on instead of high paid officials that have political ties.</p>
N/A	Privatization	<p>Stop trying to run everything. Let the American people use their talents, time, and energy to pull us out of this recession. And yes we are still in a recession.</p>
N/A	Privatization	<p>It is my belief the IDED model is inefficient for growing and retaining jobs in our state. The various hurdles and mandates often times restrict Iowans from accessing financial assistance to start and grow companies. The leadership is far too intent on finding a reason to say no than it is on finding solutions when a project does not neatly fit into one of the little programmatically boxes. The long delay of a two part application process, due diligence and one or more board meetings do not meet the market needs.</p> <p>To deal with private enterprise in a manner that best fits its needs, I would encourage the state to consider privatizing its economic development functions. Several other states have gone to this model and are quickly becoming leaders in attracting and growing new jobs. This offers a solutions based approach that moves at the speed of business and can be aggressive and innovative in how they structure deals to benefit both parties.</p> <p>We now compete globally for projects and our current model is not built for what the market is demanding.</p>
N/A	Reduce Government	<p>Less and more simple laws. "Downsizing" the government as a whole. Less reliance on the government and more on privately ran operations.</p>
N/A	Reduce Regulation	<p>Government was like a small tree with few branches in the beginning. Now it is like a huge old oak tree with many branches choking peoples very freedoms that they used to enjoy. If you read your First Iowa Constitutional Right. It is impossible now days. You have too many government agencies telling you things like "you can't do that" or "your not zoned for that" or "you need a permit", "you need to hire an engineer" or "you need to have a certain size sign" or "you will need to get a variance" or "you need to put a fence around your air conditioning units" or " you can't have a car in your yard" and on and on. You really don't own your property any longer. You are just a slave to government. I would bet we pay more taxes now then when we were under the British.</p>
N/A	Reorganization - Local Government	<p>Do away with township trustees and their levies.</p> <p>Give the money to the nearest county or city.</p> <p>Townships only duties are to resolve fence disputes and provide fire protection. Township trustees sit on millions of taxpayers dollars and are nothing but a beer swilling good ole boy club.</p>

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Justice	State Reorganization	Consolidate all building codes and enforcement into the Building Code Bureau under the Fire Marshall. It does not make sense to have the State Plumbing Code and Enforcement separate, and the elevator code and enforcement separate, and the boiler code and enforcement separate, etc. etc. The requirements are inconsistently enforced, ad the review, inspection, and approval processes unnecessarily complicated for owners, architects, engineers, and contractors and a lot of redundancy and cost to the state across multiple departments.
N/A	State Reorganization	The state of Iowa should adopt zero base line budgeting. This would require each state agency to submit a budget every that requires justification of every dollar in the budget. Instead of taking last years budget and adding to it, each year each state agency would start at zero and justify all proposed expenditures. These budgets and associated justifications should be made public. Thank you.
N/A	State Reorganization	Sunset (eliminate) all state agencies and bureaucracies not specifically provided for in the State of Iowa Constitution.
N/A	State Reorganization	When I managed customer service operations for one of the State's major utilities, an effective way of determining my budget was to obtain a level of service that my employer would set. For example, If we wanted a 3% abandoned rate for phone calls, it took a certain level of staffing. If 2% was the number, more staff was required, or if 4%, less staff. Why could not the legislature or administrative branch, after conversation with the public, determine levels of service each department should attain. The choices can be made as to priorities and what services each level of government should attain with the financial requirements determined to reach that level of service. This will lead the conversation in a productive way that would be understandable to the public.
N/A	State Reorganization	Create a statewide salary schedule for teachers and fund it directly, eliminating the need for individual districts to negotiate with education associations. Saving money on that process. Equalizes teacher pay and climates the sometimes negative process between local associations and district's who cannot afford the settlements that associations ask. Districts would only have to monitor administrator and support staff pay.
N/A	State Reorganization	Someone needs to pay serious attention to the many millions of dollars that are wasted each year on duplicate technology and processes because agencies are territorial and insist on doing things themselves. With a long term plan to consolidate technology the state could cut technology costs perhaps by as much as half. The technology staff and boards are powerless against the agencies self-serving interests. An example - how many licensing systems are there in the state?
Justice	State Reorganization	Merge South Lee Courthouse in Ft. Madison) and North Lee County Courthouse in Keokuk) into one. Lee County is the only county in the State of Iowa to have two courthouses.
N/A	State Reorganization	It is my view that government must become more efficient and spend money very wisely. Some programs will need to be cut or downsized. However I must say that ideas I have heard floating around about forcing school districts to consolidate and cutting funding for education or natural resource protection are unwise. We can get through this tough economic time without taking problems out on children and nature.
N/A	State Reorganization	Where feasible, have state employees work from home. Then the state will no longer have to pay for office space (and all of its associated costs). Employees will save money on gas, parking, and child care that they can then spend, which will increase tax revenue and increase jobs.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Justice	State Reorganization	Instead of importing any number of items - toys, clothes, whatever from foreign countries, every one of our Iowa prisons should become a manufacturing plant. Money could pay victims, sustain the prison and add resources for the state. Do a search on American made toys for children - Good luck finding any!
N/A	State Reorganization	4 Day work week for government offices
Human Services	State Reorganization	Stop contracting out almost all services that DHS provides. Instead have employees provide services. Currently you are not only paying too much to contractors but you also pay hundreds of DHS employees to do nothing but provide oversight of contracts. Those employees are upper level management and make much more than what it would cost the state to pay social workers to provide services. Not to mention you would then have more control over service provided.
N/A	State Reorganization	<p>Then regent's universities can be molded such that each school can expand upon their strengths.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>UNI has the best education type programs and such type programs should be enhanced yet reduced at Iowa state and UI.</p> <p>University of Iowa excels in medical type areas, arts, and literature. These should be expanded at UI.</p> <p>Iowa State has the largest and best science (physics, chemistry, and math) and specifically Engineering programs in the state. Iowa State should be able to enhance these programs while the university of Iowa and northern Iowa have their programs reduced to avoid duplication.</p> <p>Just look at the Georgia system.</p> <p>Georgia Tech = Engineering, Science = Iowa State</p> <p>University of Georgia = University of Iowa</p> <p>Georgia state = Northern Iowa</p>
N/A	State Reorganization	I suggest four 10 hour days for State employees and Courts. This would decrease utilities and transportation costs for the State. The State Government should research this issue by finding out how much other States have saved by implementing this policy.
Economic Development	State Reorganization	Eliminate the current TSB program. It is very expensive both in direct cost to manage it and indirectly in ensuring compliance with the program for the limited benefits it provides to Targeted Small Businesses. Eliminate the high administrative cost and replace with simple targeted tax relief and/or low interest loans.
N/A	State Reorganization	Encourage state workers telecommuting. Save energy at office and commuting, plus requires efficient system and processes to work, rather than old paper processes and face to face group meetings that waste time and money.
N/A	State Reorganization	A suggestion to make Iowa government more efficient and to save money. Plus to be more convenient to the usage of most Iowans. I suggest that the state, county, and schools look at going to 4- 10 hour work day weeks. For government offices, it would make it more convenient for the general public to access services before office close. For all situations it would lessen the cost for utilities due to the shorten work week. It would also save on oil consumption with one less day for commuting to work. Workers may like the extra day each weekend also. When it comes to schools, the days could be lengthen 1 extra hour of the four days, which would make the hours more

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		convenient to most parents any way. In the end only have to add an extra week or two at the end of the year which will be out of the time that the district would be heating the buildings. This would save hundreds of thousands in transportation costs and utilities for all districts in the state. All governments listed above would need to do this in order for it to work, and be convenient to the public. Essential services would be the exempt (Law Enforcement, Prison, etc.). The only problem might be daycare for parents, but if all of these areas of government would change, than daycares would too.
N/A	State Reorganization	That it is mandatory to implement agency wide furloughs to cover shortfalls in budgets. It will save jobs, maintain service levels, and reduce unemployment.
N/A	State Reorganization	Implement mandatory retirement for those eligible under the rule of 88. These employees are usually the highest paid and least productive (as the pay system is based on seniority not merit). This would help to rejuvenate State gov. from the ground up while saving significantly.
Economic Development	State Reorganization	The Department of Cultural Affairs can be merged with Education or Tourism eliminating upper management saving significant funds. I also believe the function of the museum, library and archives would be better served and thus the public.
N/A	State Reorganization	Government agencies and office should go to a 4 10 hour work week. I believe this would save significantly on utilities. Allow office to be open later to better serve the public. It would also reduce commuting costs for employees. The only exception would be essential services such as law enforcement.
N/A	State Reorganization	Government should consider eliminating assistant/deputy director positions for agencies. Upper management levels need to be reduced. This would also force director positions to be filled by qualified individuals and not just a political appointee. Secondly, the director's resume should be posted for public review such as in corporations.
Economic Development	State Reorganization	Put Occupational Counselors in the Workforce Development Centers. Have the occupational counselors be responsible for occupational counseling in the schools and colleges. Have the counselors be responsible for occupational counseling in the state prisons. Have the counselors be responsible for counseling returning Iraq veterans. Have the Occupational counselors be responsible for counseling people on unemployment compensation. Have the occupational counselors responsible for counseling people on Medicaid and Social Security disability. Have the Occupational counselors responsible for counseling people on welfare. For every dollar put into occupational counseling, the state would get back over ten fold. Has it occurred to anyone to have an occupational counselor talk with college graduates about employment opportunities in Iowa? Interested? Ask me about it. 319-377-2928 It has to be done right.
Justice	State Reorganization	Maybe it is time we sell All The Farmland Owned By The Various Institutions. They Are No Longer Used For Farming By The Institutions With The Exception On Anamosa Reformatory And That Is Not A Viable Farming Operation For The Inmates. This Would Not Only Raise Some Capital But Would Put The Land Back On The Tax Rolls Thereby Helping The Counties Involved.
Human Services	State Reorganization	IDPH needs to quit sending more than one staff person to a meeting!! Sometimes there are 4-5 people at the same meeting. IDPH should also quit using tax payer money to buy lunch for all attendees at those meetings, quit buying trinkets/giveaways with tax payer dollars, and quite printing everything in color. Having lots of give always/freebies, picking up the tab for lunch, and printing everything in color sends a message that you have money for fluff--and the state of Iowa doesn't.
N/A	State Reorganization	I suggest closing the Department of Cultural Affairs. As a student I went there. Recently took my children there. NOTHING had changed! It was dirty! The stuff was obviously damaged from being out so long. The only good thing I saw was the battle flag. I say keep that bit and do away with the rest. Not having the museum would save salaries and utilities. It wouldn't be much of a loss to the public.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	State Reorganization	I would suggest that all state agencies implement a furlough closing entire departments for at least one day a month. I believe that would save significantly on salary costs and operating costs. Closing one day a month would not be a hardship for the public. And it would save on adding more people to the already long unemployment lines.
Justice	State Reorganization	Stop Iowa Prison Industries from paying there prison Labor below minimum wage it's not fair to private business. I heard they pay works 50 cents to maybe a \$1.50 how can business compete. I also heard not one dollar of sale goes back to state from IPI's sales.
N/A	State Reorganization	Require ALL employees in ALL branches of government to take furlough days, not just select employees of the judicial branch. What a difference it would make with regard to the budget if, for example, the presidents, coaches, professors, and all staff at the state universities; doctors and all staff at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics; judges; attorneys general; public defenders; social workers and all staff at the Department of Human Services; corrections officers; state troopers; legislative staff; and yes, even the governor, were furloughed for one day every two months, or whatever it may take to reach a balanced budget. No one should be exempt from sharing the pain of this recession, and it would spare the loss of jobs. If state employees are laid off, we are simply adding to our economic problems. We will lose more of our tax base, due to people moving out of state for jobs. And those who cannot move out of state will have no choice but to collect unemployment benefits, which will cost the tax
N/A	State Reorganization	Cut upper management positions. Forced retirement for employees who should have retired long ago. Make lazy state employees earn their pay for once. Problems solved.
Admin & Regulation	State Reorganization	Revenue: Close all out-of-state Revenue Offices and establish auditors to work from their personal residences where they live within those states.
N/A	State Reorganization	Put state government and state workers on a 4-day work week. This would reduce the amount of time they spend commuting, thus reducing some pollution and saving gas. Plus it would reduce heat, air and electric costs at the capitol complex.
N/A	State Reorganization	At the Department of Education, get rid of the reimbursement for transportation of non-public students! That costs the state over \$8.7 million a year! And yes, you read that correctly - \$8.7 million a year for transporting non-public students! The parents are making their own choice to send their kids to a non-public school. So why then do the taxpayers have to pay for the transportation??? The parents made the choice - let them pay for it! Besides, isn't there supposed to be a separation between church and state?? And who knows how much money would be saved in labor costs at the school district level if they didn't have to do the paperwork for this monster of a program?
N/A	State Reorganization	Let's have state employees drive their own cars to work. Any normal person has to drive to work why do they think they get a company car for personal use. Imagine the savings in fuel cost any extra miles. Troopers could share cars between shifts so the state could buy fewer squad cars. They governor's wife could smoke in her own car why is she driving a tax payer vehicle, who elected her?
Human Services	State Reorganization	I have been a state employee with the Child Support Recovery Unit for almost ten years. This past year, the agency implemented the use of a document imaging system known as Global 360. The system was installed state-wide. Our particular office already had a working imaging system in place that had been functioning very well for over 8 years. Global 360 has been a dismal failure. Every document has to have a cover sheet (which is not being recycled, so we use reams of paper for this purpose alone). The system has many, many glitches and is down and non-functioning more often than not. Finally, one employee used to be able to finish all the imaging projects in a few hours on any given day with our old imaging system. Global 360 is so complicated and time-consuming that most offices have had to dedicate MORE employees to the process and our office, at least, is always

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>behind and losing documents. The system has cost the state a LOT of money, when the sole purpose of using the system was to free up time, free up employees, and save paper. It is a dismal failure and should be replaced.</p> <p>Also, CSRU has what is known as a "dead day" at the beginning of every month. On days when this day does not fall on the weekend, we are prohibited from doing most of the functions of our job that necessitate the use of the computer, because "dead day" is the day our IT department runs certain month end computer programs and reports. A lot of employee time and talent is wasted on this day, since most people have to "make up" work to stay busy, or devote the day to cleaning or other similar tasks. Major companies do not shut down their operations at the beginning of each month. CSRU suffers a definite loss of productivity on these days. Wouldn't it be possible to find a way to run the necessary month end reports and programs without making all the employees sit around and twiddle their thumbs for a day?</p> <p>Finally, CSRU depends a great deal on the cooperation of income maintenance workers. We ask them to sanction the benefits of clients who will not cooperate with our efforts to establish paternity and support. Many times, the only information we receive about a non-cooperating client is via the income maintenance workers. However, often times they are unable to obtain the information we need, and we are unable to gather the information in any other fashion. Since CSRU exists, in part, to recoup dollars that are provided as assistance to families with dependent children, it would seem to make sense and save a LOT of time and money if the two agencies/functions were streamlined and combined. It would be something of a "one stop shop," and the portion of the agency that recoups the dollars wouldn't have to be so dependent on the portion of the agency that hands them out. It would also put an end to a lot of "double work" and unnecessary inconvenience for the clients we serve.</p>
N/A	State Reorganization	<p>Redesign the employee evaluation and compensation systems. Employee evaluations are rarely worth the paper they're written on. Everyone knows that if they are covered by the union, they are almost impossible to fire unless they threaten someone or steal. Also, most long-time employees know how to work around the employee work improvement process so that it takes years and years to document a failing employee enough to fire them. Overhaul the system so that the evaluations actually mean something.</p> <p>Also, overhaul the compensation and benefit programs so that pay is based on true performance and not on the number of years of service. Lazy and unproductive employees earn as much, if not more, than top performers and will receive raises based on the years of service, not performance. At the same time, top performers are often asked to do extra work to make up for work that is left undone by low performers. There is very little incentive to do a good job and, often there is a disincentive to work hard because of the way the system is currently set up.</p>
N/A	State Reorganization	<p>For the agencies that could function well with the following schedule, I propose the implementation of four ten-hour day weeks. This would save in utility costs, and in other ways, over time.</p>
N/A	State Reorganization	<p>How about selling or renting out all state owned houses and no longer letting state employees live in them for free. It would also help the housing market when they buy their own house. The state would save money on utilities it provides for free.</p>
N/A	State Reorganization	<p>My parents (who are in their late 70's) heard rumor that Governor Culver is considering doing away with the Iowa Homestead tax exemption. This would be a slap in the face to seniors, middle income, etc. It would also negate President Obama's attempts to help alleviate some of the financial burden on average Americans. 'Gas taxes' are another culprit that would do the same. PLEASE find ways to improve the state's fiscal responsibility without placing the burden on those already suffering.</p>
	State Reorganization	<p>Place Iowa's community college districts and the AEAs under the same board/district. This was the original intent in 1965, but it failed by one vote. Greater efficiencies could be realized by accomplishing this needed and overdo change.</p>

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	State Reorganization	Need to bring in fresh faces for Iowa Government. Need to offer retirement to those with 20+ years. Do away with the IPERS penalty for leaving early and do away with the rule of 88. Those taking retirement should be banned from double dipping. I.E taking retirement and then 4 months later getting hired back and double dipping.
N/A	State Reorganization	Need to stop this centralization of services away from rural areas. An example of this would be the DHS call center in Council Bluffs. Do a survey of customers and staff from the field and get the real story of how this has been a white elephant from the start. Hold people accountable for making these poor decisions.
Human Services	State Reorganization	Gessow says abused children won't be served if DHS is cut. That's not true. All he has to do to save front line staff positions is cut management positions at Central Office and in the regions. How many management positions do not add value? How many people are simply waiting for the rule of 88 and not working very hard while they wait?
N/A	State Reorganization	Since the Iowa State Patrol has been down a number of officers for years, move the DOT's motor vehicle enforcement officers over to the Iowa State Patrol. The DOT isn't a law enforcement agency like the Department of Public Safety and the DOT doesn't have the upper management to be running a law enforcement agency like the Iowa State Patrol. This would add around 80-90 officers to the State Patrol statewide and get them closer to the numbers they need to patrol all the highway miles in Iowa.
Education	State Reorganization	Merge the duties of Iowa Public Radio under the broader duties and activities of Iowa Public Television. Merging the production, public relations, and management could save millions of dollars. Iowa Public Radio is a smaller enterprise that would naturally fit under IPTV.
N/A	State Reorganization	Create a method for each branch or agency to establish revenue streams through online advertising. Simple rules could be established to only allow those that do business with state agencies.
N/A	State Reorganization	Review the powers and duties of the various state and local government offices. Why do people have to go to the county treasurer for motor vehicle registration, but to the county recorder for boat and snowmobile registration? The division of powers and duties should make sense. Additionally, the governor, treasurer of state, auditor of state, Department of Budget, Department of Revenue, majority and minority leaders in both chambers of the General Assembly, chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees, and Legislative Services Agency should meet during the summer of odd-numbered years (if not every summer) to create and monitor progress on five- and ten-year budget plans. A bipartisan consensus on the budget might be reached more easily in the "quiet" of the summer. Five- and ten-year goals could be set, and progress towards those goals could be examined. Revisions to the budget could be drafted for the next legislative session during the summer as needed.
Admin & Regulation	State Reorganization	Review and change the State Auditors office and their mission. They are not effective. If they can do a city audit and find a separate set of books and not even mention it other than in passing, something is terribly wrong with that department.
Economic Development	State Reorganization	Close down and sell all historic sites to generate revenue. This will raise money for the budget while getting rid of property and stuff that can't be cared for properly by the State.
N/A	State Reorganization	Put authority in funding. The Governor sends a budget to the Legislature ever year then it gets approved and signed by the governor. So why in the State's budget is no one accountable when funding for (FTE's) Full Time Employees is spent on other things? Why even bother to itemize it. Has anyone even took a look on how many dollars are spent on other things besides the positions stated as needed in the budget. The last time there were layoffs the money was used on other things logically if the money wasn't used for what it was intended

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		then it should have gone back to the general fund. When full funding was restored the last time there was cuts it was used for upgrades and new positions not even the ones that were left open. I purpose a bill that says, "All money for FTEs has to be spent on just that or turned into the general fund as not needed." Leave Departments 90 days to fill each FTE or turn the money in until next budget year. Let's itemize each job class for each worksite in the budget. Let funding be only for that number of FTEs that is approved and signed into law.
Justice	State Reorganization - Judicial	Amend the Code so Judges and Magistrates must participate in furloughs! If they had to participate, the lesser-paid employees wouldn't have to take as many days.
Justice	State Reorganization - Judicial	Don't allow 5th Jud District Juvenile Court Services to do CPR Certification and Re-Certification to employees in May. Equipment must be rented; mileage must be employed to employees to travel to DM. These are JCOs who have been limited in their mileage and restricted from visiting clients in out-of-home placements, but yet they are going to be paid to travel to DM for this, as well as lose a day or half day to office productivity. Being certified in CPR is not a requirement of a JCO, is not state mandated, nor do I see it the responsibility of the Judicial Dept.
Justice	State Reorganization - Judicial	State government will be improved if every state organization is treated equally and fairly in this time of budget crisis. The judicial branch should not be expected to absorb the lion's share of government deficit so that other parts of state government can remain untouched. Even in the expectation that the judicial branch make such budget cuts, there is enormous inequality in different offices of the judicial branch. Every single state employee should be required to contribute to the state deficit by participating in the required furlough days. It is unseemly, unethical, and unfair for only the judicial branch to suffer this mandatory loss of income, and it is appalling and loathsome that only a choice group of judicial branch employees are forced to suffer this loss in income. Indeed, the entire judicial branch will be shut down for furlough days, but many are still getting paid for those days, which become essentially holidays for the people who do not lose income, holidays which are paid for by those of us who are forced to not work and not be paid. That is the most absurd and unacceptable resolution to a problem I have heard in a great while. I am ashamed of the state leaders who believe it is fair to burden a few people on the lower end of the totem pole so that those who are apparently the chosen few can have extra holidays. If everyone shared in the furlough days equally, everyone would have very few of them, and there would be far fewer disgusted and enraged employees sitting home on furlough days stewing about how they are losing income so that some can just sit at home on a free holiday. It is unfair that the judicial branch, which serves the people at its most fundamental level of delivering justice, is forced to suffer such great slash in budget. It is unavoidable that the quality of justice will be diminished by these cuts. It is ironic and shameful that the judicial branch, which claims to be about providing justice for all, is so blatantly unjust in the distribution of the cuts. I would gladly submit to furlough days if it saved jobs. I do not submit gladly to paying for the holiday those who will not lose pay get to enjoy because of my smaller paycheck.
Justice	State Reorganization - Judicial	As a fellow state employee--a judicial one at that--I am as well as other employees extremely upset that we have to have a furlough day every payday. I understand the budget crunch & I am thankful that I still have a job, but what happened to other state depts. Why is the IDOT, DHS, Child support recovery having to do their part? By closing the clerk's office you are interfering with the public. Fridays are paydays for many & that is our busiest. If some of these people don't get in to pay that day, many will drink, inhale or inject the money away. They figure if we are closed then we don't want their money badly. Others who try to renew their plates with have to postpone it because they will not be able to find out what they owe or pay that amount to renew the tags--resulting in a traffic ticket for expired plates. Others won't be able to renew their licenses because we are closed for them to pay past tickets--gosh another ticket for expired or suspended licenses. Let's upset the public even more. We are suppose to serve the public, how is that being done. People don't like to deal with us as it is, so let's not be open. It takes our magistrates 1-1 1/2 hours to deal with simple misdemeanors & traffic Monday - Friday, so lets bog down the system even more by taking up more of the public's time as well as keeping clerks away from their desks. Simple trials are

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		already scheduled for May & June, so let's extend them even farther out. Let's make it more difficult for the law enforcement agencies to acquire warrants & verify them by being closed not only on furloughs, but 4 hrs a week for catch up. You have no idea what goes on in the court system & the impact of closing. Donate a couple of your pay days & let us remain open. Cut your days down & take a pay cut that would probably make more sense to the public then closing a public office. Let Culver donate his raise. Shut down or reduce other department's hours. We took the hit last time so let someone else enjoy the pleasure.
Justice	State Reorganization - Judicial	It is time to look at the alignment of Judicial Districts. For example, the 2nd Judicial District covers from Hwy 30 to the Minnesota border (north and south) and from Hardin to Sac County (east and west). The 1st District has 2 metro areas (Dubuque & Waterloo) in the same district. Redistricting into smaller districts is convenient for constituents and eliminates travel mileage in huge districts.
N/A	State Reorganization - Legislature	Change the joint rules of House and Senate to forbid "same" bills, meaning identical bills within the same chamber. If Representative X or Senator Y sponsors a bill that a committee later passes, there is no need to reprint and renumber such bills (especially noncontroversial ones) as committee bills. This wasteful habit results in thousands of pages being reprinted unnecessarily every year, and hundreds of hours of staff time being consumed in redrafting and reproofing.
N/A	State Reorganization - Legislature	For every bill that is introduced into the legislature, another bill must accompany it repealing one. Eventually the law books will be so full that it will be impossible to follow them all. Mow the roads, if you must, once a year in the fall. Butterfly chrysalis is being killed during the summer. Most of the mowing is completely unnecessary.
N/A	State Reorganization - Legislature	Either shorten session by one month or have General Assembly once every 2 years. Legislators waste much time that could be worked out in committee and then just bring to floor. Average citizens are not impressed by the lack of work ethic.
N/A	State Reorganization - Legislature	Why does the legislature have to meet every year? Other states get by with the legislature meeting every other year - why can't Iowa? We'd save a ton of money in all the expenses paid to the legislators, aides, etc. Just like the recent ridiculous idea to keep the voting open over the past weekend - who paid for the troopers to be at the capitol, and the added electricity etc. for that? We did - the taxpayers of the State of Iowa! And why? What good did it serve?
N/A	State Reorganization - Legislature	Provide an easy-to-use database for Iowans to access legislators' voting records. Should have been done long ago.
N/A	State Reorganization - Legislature	Reduce the house to 60 and the senate to 40 people.
N/A	State Reorganization - Legislature	Create a ballot initiative process like they have in California so we can quickly override stupid Supreme Court decisions like the one on gay marriage!

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	State Reorganization - Legislature	Every state building project has to go through several studies, like benefits verse costs studies. They also have to do feasibilities studies and impact studies to determine if needed structures are built and what impact will the construction phase and final structures cause. Just like needed structures, many proposed bills and files are needed but what will the impact be and will the impact be greater than the original problem or can the original problem be solved with a limited impact. Iowa is becoming aware of the impact of having an over abundant amount of paved surfaces going directly into stream. Many proposed bills are going to do the same damage. Iowans deserve to not only know what the proposed bill's benefits are, but at what cost and cost isn't just a financial cost -- for ever action develops a reaction. Iowans deserve to know who will lose what (and the intent of the proposed bill). We need to require lawmakers to do impact studies and publically published the study next to proposed bill for lawmakers are building Iowa just like everyone else.
N/A	State Reorganization - Legislature	Make every vote public record on this website. Do not send the information off to a private company to profit from. This website could be a powerful tool to hold our legislators accountable if we could easily see their voting records, and the votes of all legislators on every roll call vote.
N/A	State Reorganization - Legislature	All employees of the legislative branch -particularly the staffs of the House and Senate -should be required to have two weeks of furlough. This means two weeks away from the job with no compensation in salary for those two weeks.
Multiple Subcommittees	State Reorganization - Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Merge state agencies and local governments to create greater efficiency, less redundancy, clearer lines of authority, and reduce waste. 2. Merge Department for the Blind, Department of Elder Affairs, Department of Human Services, and the Department of Public Health into a single Department of Health and Human Services. 3. Merge Civil Rights Commission, Commission on the Status of Women, Department of Human Rights, Civil Rights Attorneys, and other such bodies into a single Division of Civil Rights within the Department of Justice. Function of the Civil Rights Commission and the Department of Human Rights not related to enforcing civil-rights laws could be transferred to the Department of Cultural Affairs and/or a merged Department of Health and Human Services. 4. Merge Department of Education and the Board of Regents to create seamless governance and better coordination of prekindergarten through twelfth grade education. Classes and transferring credits from community colleges to state universities could become seamless, and students would not have to retake classes. Eliminate the State Records Commission, and have all of record-keeping functions carried out by the secretary of state. 5. Merge the Department of Economic Development, Department of Commerce, Iowa Finance Authority, and other such bodies into a single 6. Department of Commerce. Additionally, put the Iowa Lottery, Racing and Gaming Commission, and Iowa State Fair Authority within the merged Department of Commerce. 7. It may be desirable to transfer the regulation of financial institutions to the treasurer of state. It also may be desirable to make the treasurer of state the head of a new Department of the Treasury and eliminate the Department of Revenue. All of the IDR's functions would be taken over by the Department of the Treasury. 8. Transfer the Employment and Appeal Board to Workforce Development, the Child Advocacy Board to a merged Department of Health and Human Services, and make the State Public Defender's Office and independent agency. The Department of Inspections and Appeals should focus on inspections. The appeals function should be transferred, and the word dropped from the department's name.

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>9. Have the courts conduct as much business as possible over the Iowa Communications Network to reduce travel and keep the courts close to the people.</p> <p>10. Amend the following sections of the Constitution of the State of Iowa to allow for the consolidation of local government within the state: Article 3, section 30 (location of county seats); Article 11, section 2; and possibly Article 11, section 8 (specifically mentioning the counties of Polk and Johnson). An amendment giving the General Assembly the power to reorganize counties may be necessary because of county Home rule (Article 3, section 39A).</p> <p>11. Counties and all forms of special districts--community college districts, area education agencies, school districts, community empowerment areas, electrical power agencies, hydroelectric utilities, intergovernmental solid waste services, council of governments, metropolitan or regional planning commissions, and all the other types listed in Code of Iowa, chapters 357-358C--could be reorganized and streamlined to reduce redundancy and waste. It may be desirable to eliminate townships and township government in its entirety. Iowans no longer live in the era of the horse and buggy; government no longer should be organized based on that method of transportation.</p>
Education	State Reorganization - Regents	Require the firing of State University athletic coaches to go through a committee comprised of at least 12 individuals, separate from school administrative oversight. The athletic director should not be given the power to fire a coach as this affects millions of Iowans.
Education	State Reorganization - Regents	The University of Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa need to coordinate and consolidate their academic programs. The same degree should have the same requirements at all three universities. (Coordination with the state's private colleges would be helpful.) All three universities probably should offer certain basic programs, but they should build on their strengths to focus on certain other programs. It is not necessary to have all three universities offer the same programs. Some consolidation can be done by having one of the universities offer courses to students at the other two universities online or through the Iowa Communication Network. If you want a law or medical degree, you should go to U of I. If you want a degree in agriculture or engineering, go ISU. If you want a degree in education or business, go to UNI. To make this consolidation possible, there should be the same tuition, room, and board rates at all three universities, not three separate sets of rates. Perhaps they could share some administrators as well.
Ways and Means	Tax	Reform the Iowa State Sales Tax reporting wherein the individual taxpayers may claim the Iowa Holiday Sales tax exemption as a credit against the Taxpayers Iowa Income Tax for that annual year for the actual amount of Iowa Sales taxes actually paid up to a specific amount of say -- \$100 dollars.
Ways and Means	Taxes	New marginal taxes on motor fuel or road use could be applied on a tier or scale system: when prices are low, a higher tax rate could be tolerated, gradually phased down as prices increase. This could also be a strategy to increase taxes while somewhat offsetting the additional driving costs to businesses and citizens when prices rise. When prices are low, incentive to drive is higher just when a higher tax rate can be tolerated because of low fuel prices; more miles driven at a higher tax rate amounts to higher revenue just when higher revenue is most affordable. When prices are high, costs are too, and incentive to drive is lower, and exactly when additional tax is harder to tolerate. For example: when base gasoline (i.e., before taxes) is below \$2.00, add a marginal tax of \$0.08/gal. Between \$2.00-3.00, the marginal increase could be \$0.05. Above \$3.00, the tax could be \$0.02.
Ways and Means	Taxes	I spent 30 years of my life working at a small paper mill in Fort Madison until International Paper closed it in 2005. I experienced going from being the primary bread winner to basically a welfare recipient which was pretty degrading but then the unemployment has a tax rate that (in my estimation) is disproportionate to the amount of income that is received. When you only get \$300.00 and then \$50.00 goes to

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		taxes, you aren't left with much. I would ask that the state consider giving people in these circumstances a little break on their taxes. I was fortunate enough to qualify for NAFTA retraining, but in order to make ends meet. We couldn't afford the taxes withheld from my unemployment. I graduated this past spring from Southeastern Community College in West Burlington but we are still saddled with a tax burden from these past years. Times are tough and the infamous "Tax Man" is still demanding his pound of flesh from the unfortunate who have fallen on hard times. May I add that the letters received from
Ways and Means	Taxes	Eliminate the idling tax refund for semis with on-board diagnostics. Why are we refunding money on wasted fuel?
N/A	Taxes	I think if you would stop the unfair tax abatement that has been in place, you would not have a budget shortage. My taxes keep going up while the ones taking advantage of this despicable law are paying nothing. Please help us to keep our homes.
N/A	Taxes	Stop the tax abatement on new housing.
Ways and Means	Taxes	Spend only on what's needed and cut the rest. Forget about increasing gasoline taxes, we are taxed to death now. Pass a law for no more deficit spending. Send the governor and most of the legislature to economics classes.
Ways and Means	Taxes	I have read elsewhere, but not here, about taxing new vehicles by engine size. This is reasonable: it is a more readily achievable equivalent to raising CAFE standards. The idea is that people who buy larger engines are already prepared to pay more in fuel costs; but there is a corresponding increase in social costs that go with less fuel efficiency. A marginal increase in tax will not deter them, thus revenue can be increased; or if it does deter, then they will buy a smaller engine, which is the equivalent of bumping the fleet fuel efficiency.
N/A	Taxes	The February 22, 2009 article in the Des Moines Register, "Fees past due? State, counties hunt for ways to collect debt," portraying \$525 Million in uncollected taxes and fees, ought to carry obvious obligations by public officials that are so obvious they should not have to be further spelled out here. The figure suggests that lawfully paying citizens are punished for paying, while people who do not are thus rewarded. These are perverse incentives that may lead people to pay even fewer taxes; and on the other hand, excessive, inappropriate taxes and fees should be reviewed to see if they should be repealed.
Transportation & Infrastructure	Taxes	<p>Plug a significant, several million dollar 'leak' in motor fuel tax collections by eliminating the historical and now obsolete Distribution Allowance at 452A.5. This code section was originally set up when oil companies shipped gasoline by rail tanker car across Iowa to local distributors where they unloaded the product into their local tank farm. From their local tank farm they further 'broke bulk' and distributed by small tank wagon trucks gasoline to the local service station owner. Because the product was handled several times before it got to the retail customer, there was perhaps a case, although weak, to be made that 'shrinkage' did occur between the pipeline terminal and the service station owner caused both by several handlings and evaporation.</p> <p>In today's world that doesn't exist since all gasoline (and significant taxable diesel fuel) in Iowa is transported by vapor tight trucks and almost always shipped directly to the retail outlet. Gasoline can only be loaded into EPA tested vapor tight trucks at the pipeline terminal(s) and now local retail outlets are being required by EPA to retrofit their gasoline dispensing systems to vapor tight specs. So in 2009, Iowa gasoline distribution is nearly 100% handled once from the pipeline terminal by vapor tight loading and transported directly to the retail outlet where it is sold to the retail customer. (There is some gasoline hauled to local tank farms but the percentage is extremely small versus the entire Iowa gasoline pool.)</p> <p>Also the diesel distribution allowance instituted in 1995 is a farce in that diesel just about doesn't evaporate.</p>

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>The payment float allowed in this code section is also obsolete in that nearly 80% of the retail gasoline sales are done by credit card in which the retailer gets funds within 48 hours at most. Traditionally oil company terms are payment in 10 days. No other industry in Iowa gets a 'float' to pay their taxes.</p> <p>The 'float' stemmed from when distributors sold to retailers and retailers to customers and each party had to collect from each other and remit per terms.</p> <p>Also since this code section allows the shrink as a percentage, as motor fuel and special fuel tax rates increase the impact on the road tax fund increases.</p> <p>With the consolidation of the fuel marketing industry into Casey's and Kum and Go this section only produces profits to the biggies, not your local retailer who never sees the shrink passed on by the distributor.</p> <p>Iowans deserve to see their tax money go to the appropriate party, not as a private profit supplement.</p>
N/A	Taxes	<p>Revenue: Eliminate the Federal tax deduction for payments made to and for the Federal taxes those person have paid to the U.S. Government.</p> <p>Remove and simplify the extra allowances for Blind persons and those aged 65 years or older.</p> <p>Give the Blind, Hearing impaired, etc. a direct monetary stipend. Allow the individuals retired on social security deduction up to \$10,000 for social security benefits.</p> <p>In other words, disconnect the State Income tax system form the Federal Tax code.</p>
N/A	Taxes	<p>Stop thinking about adding regulations to the mortgage industry that do NOTHING but hurt the borrowers. I am amazed at what legislators think will HELP our Iowa borrowers - they could not be further from reality. Why don't politicians look for answers that are simple and don't require additional regulation? How about putting banks and mortgage brokers on an even playing field? I am working with borrowers every day who just want a better loan than what they currently have. It is getting harder and harder to provide that to them. How about working to shore up the appraised values in the state? Easily done - however politicians don't seem interested in that. What will that lead to? LOWER property tax revenues - that hurts everyone. I apologize for my anger - we just want things fixed - the "stimulus" plan - just isn't going to get us there.</p>
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>Reform the Sales and Use tax deductions!!! Allow the Machinery and equipment sales and use taxes to be deducted "as a credit" against the Iowa Income tax liability for those who purchased the machinery and equipment. Thus, the 7% paid in state sales tax become the absolute amount of credit applied against the income tax liability. No current tax liability -- then the amount of credit could be carried-over to the next 3 years.</p>
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>If you can't figure out how to make things better, then look at other states and how they are doing things. My Mom lives in Washington State and they have no state income tax and property tax is cheaper. If they can do it we should be able to do it.</p>

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>We need a gas tax increase to fund the crumbling infrastructure of roads and bridges in this state! I agree that this is a bad time in light of the economy. To that end, as gas prices are near a low that we will likely not see again (especially if/when the economy improves), this would be a perfect time to convert our cents/gallon to a % of cost tax rate. Thus it is not an increase (until the price goes up- which it does in summer every year, and will likely be above these artificially low current price levels) Thus, as construction costs continually increase, so does the tax income- as gas prices increase. Politically, you can honestly say that you did not increase the tax "rate" on gas. Plus, if we had a time of overly inflated gas prices as we did last summer, you could enact a temporary reduction of gas taxes to help citizens through a rough time- a political home run.(meanwhile, you are still collecting significantly more than the 21cents that you currently collect per gallon. Over time, your tax revenue increases as gas goes up in price, without the political suicide of protracted negotiations to increase the tax by 2 or 6 or 12 cents per gallon! Do you realize how much gas tax revenue would have been collected last summer when gas prices were more than double what they are now?! As an example, if we set \$1.50 (the current price of \$1.71 - \$.21 current tax per gallon), as a current par rate to change to a percentage. We are at 14% tax rate on gas (.14 x \$1.50= \$.21). So, last summer, when gas was between \$3.00 & \$4.00, until October, if we use \$3.50 as an example, (\$3.50- .21=\$3.29, \$3.29 x .14= \$.46) 46 cents per gallon!!!</p> <p>Then, to show us how much you wanted to help us in times of high gas prices, the Gov. could proclaim a 60 day decrease of 25% of the gas tax- (.25 x .46= .11) there would still have been 35cents collected on each gallon for road use (more than anyone is currently proposing as an increase) ---but the news would be reporting that the state cared enough to decrease the tax rate by 25% to help us out!!</p> <p>I do not typically write, asking for tax increases, but I am a believer in "use" types of taxes, so that those that use the roads the most pay more for them. Additionally, those that are saving our planet by driving less, or driving efficient vehicles, are again saving more!!</p> <p>I am not a politician, but this seems a no-brainer, both from a need basis, and from a political fallout basis.</p>
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>I would ask you not vote to raise the gas tax if it should come up this year. Instead go after the liquor and beer drinkers the way the state has come down on the smokers with all the new taxes for smoking.</p> <p>In my opinion, liquor has the same devastating effects that smoking has especially those that drive drunk and cause fatalities.</p>
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>I think we should increase the gas tax. I'm in no better financial condition than anyone, and may get laid off soon. But, I commute long distances to my job on rural highways that are falling apart and have been for years. With the flooding last year, any money for roads we would have gotten is likely gone, and our roads won't be improved for ten more years. I think we need to increase the tax, although I hate to say it. Why are we continuing to pour money into improving things like pedestrian bridges in Des Moines when some state highways in rural area are disintegrating? I understand why DSM gets priority, but SOMETHING needs to be done.</p>
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>The decision on whether to couple with the federal tax laws passed in the extender bill must be made sooner. It is very unfair to taxpayers and tax preparers to wait until late March to make a decision. It is March 23 and we still don't know whether Iowa will allow the tuition deduction or educator's expense deduction!! This has to be done earlier. The cost of amending returns is not zero and most returns are filed electronically at the same time the federal return is filed. This happens every year and it is irresponsible.</p>
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>Do an audit of all the business and the research tax credits and grants and weigh how this is a benefit to Iowans. If no tangible benefit can be measured I recommend we cap or reduce this \$384 million a year black hole.</p>
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>Put a 1% tax on food everyone has to eat legal or illegal.</p>

Public Suggestions for Improving State Government

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>"Heard rumor that Governor Culver is considering doing away with the Iowa Homestead tax exemption."</p> <p>Please understand, the Governor is not speaking about doing away with the tax relief financial benefit homeowner currently receive.....it's because citizens are currently being denied local permits for repair/replacement/modify on properties they own but do not carry the homestead credit. Sons cannot repair their parents home (like adding a small bathroom on the main floor to easier access) because the son is not able to show proof of homestead and therefore is being denied local permits. Removing this homestead requirement wording from the Iowa Building code will allow the son to become the owner's authorized agent, and would then be able to pull the permits he needs to repair his parents' home.</p>
Ways and Means	Taxes	Consolidate tax collection under the State Government and do it through income taxes. I know it will never happen because the State Legislature isn't responsible enough to raise state taxes in order to reduce school, city and county taxes.
Ways and Means	Taxes	Correct the Iowa Sales/Use Tax law to ensure that "all" Iowa State Credit Union pay sales and use taxes on goods and service -- the same as other Iowa State Financial institutions do!
Ways and Means	Taxes - Property	Get rid of the UNFAIR property tax rates for veterans. This is not to suggest that veterans are not heroes, but thousands of more people work in state and federal government and aren't given a tax break on their property taxes. IF all citizens in a community paid the same amount property taxes would actually go down. This law to give lower rates to veterans came about because Civil War Veterans were down on their luck. That war and those Vets are long gone, WW2 Vets are deserving of this break as our all other Vets to Vietnam. But just giving a tax break to a Veteran is basically a recruiting tool. I bought my house from a retired person who had frozen their taxes and a Veteran. My Taxes went up \$300+ I felt duped by the real estate guy because of this. Make Property tax rates FAIR!
N/A	Taxes and Civil Rights	Get rid of the whole Idea of the sin tax. Iowa just needs a consumption tax, with simple guide lines. Gay marriage and Christians are protected under basic constitution law. I believe that is the key to most of the problems, need to go back to basics...
N/A	Taxes and Fees	<p>I think some of the empty building around Des Moines should or could by used for housing for the homeless. I heard Mercy Capitol was closing? That would be a good place for the homeless people it is already divided into rooms etc. They surely do need someplace to live so why not take advantage of what is already out there. Also I think a lot of money could be raised by having people license bikes. There are more and more people using bikes and this is a good way to save on gas and get exercise at the same time but a \$5.00 or \$10.00 license plate wouldn't hurt anyone.</p> <p>Also put a higher tax on liquor.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Child Support Reform	New child support laws!! I can't seem to get any answers on where to turn to get child support reform. Nobody wants to help. The states around us do a great job but Iowa is a JOKE!! I am owed \$14,000 in back child support and he only is supposed to pay \$350/mo. He has never spent one day in jail or paid one cent of interest!! They take him to court, make him pay a couple of months and send him on his way to not paying for another 2 years or so. I took him to court with my own money and lawyer and child support recovery unit stepped in and saved him!!! AND THEN CHARGED ME FOR IT!! I have called Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Minnesota and know their child support laws. Iowa needs reform and need reform NOW.
N/A	Child Support Reform	Child Support Reform! From both directions this needs to be revamped. 1) Parents should be held accountable for the money that is given to them in form of child support. Too many single parents are spending the money on frivolous items and not on their kids. 2) Changes should be made swiftly on the account of both parents whether it's an increase or decrease. 3) The formula for figuring the amount owed needs to be reviewed and changed. 4) There needs to be more checks and balances systems. My ex-husband lost his job, got a new one, filed for change, it was never contested, but the court deemed that I HAVE TO PAY HIS LAWYER? \$1500?! Ridiculous! I've never taken him to court for anything to increase or decrease, he's not seen his son in over a YEAR and now I have to pay his attorney? How is this justice?
N/A	Child Support Reform	I think you should break down each area and pass legislation that can make each department run more efficiently. For example, child support. Other states such as Arizona charge interest for back child support. I think we need to get tougher on interstate child support. If we made legislation tougher for people to pay, maybe people would not be behind and calling for help, or on welfare. Now we are talking about added agency. What about bad checks, creating a class to be attended for those who have bad checks, make them pay \$100 to local police department or sheriffs department, that would pay for the officer to be there and make people stop writing bad checks. Think of all the people involved in that one. Also. Think about legislation you are enacting on cities. You make more work, additional cost and no way to increase funding to pay for these items. Does the same think happen to state? I believe it does. So I say look at the issues, look at the work load, what can we do to make things better. Look at other states. What are they doing that is successful. How do other state departments function? Thank you for your time! Kris.
Human Services	Child Welfare	I work in a human service agency that receives hundreds of thousands of tax dollars and is very ineffective with children in group placement. The whole system is seriously flawed and should be reinvented. My suggestion if enacted would provide a far superior service to children and be less expensive overall. Hire foster parents such as a two parent household with no children and pay one of the parents well as this is their full-time job. Well meaning \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year with health insurance. They would care for either one or two children maximum. They would receive training and ongoing training with adequate supervision as one parent is an employee of the state or county. The child would be normalized rather than put into a group situation with other defiant children. The foster parents would have an incentive to do a great job as they are well paid rather than the current system which misses that point. The current foster system puts the majority of money into social workers, non profit agencies, treatment systems that don't work very well and very low-paid foster parents that are not meeting the needs of children. Overhauling the system drastically and putting most of the money with the direct care providers instead of putting millions of dollars going to support services will change the playing field and do away with

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		many of the ineffective providers. Many of these may disappear all together and that might be a good thing. Think outside the box and do away with the many, many middle guys and the Iowa children served will end up with amuch better quality of life. This would be a win-win for all concerned.
N/A	Child Welfare	Much if not all of the deficit could be eliminated with one bold step - stop funding the education of the children of Illegal Aliens in the State school system, under the "English as a second language" program, etc. You might want to look at what that is costing the state, for no constitutional reason. In spite of what the courts erroneously say, children of immigrants are NOT automatic citizens of the U.S.
Human Services	Child Welfare	With all the cuts faced by the Department of Human Services and the Court system, there is no better time to be trying to strengthen the child welfare system safety net than by having the Iowa Child Advocacy Board use their CASA volunteers to fill the gap.
N/A	Civil Rights	The people of Iowa should have the right to vote on the Iowa Marriage Amendment.
N/A	Computer Standards	Use open source software such as Linux instead of expensive Microsoft and Apple licenses.
N/A	Computer Standards	You have to look into web 2.0 solutions/web applications to help. They are more powerful then desktop solutions and getting easier and easier to build and maintain and teach/train.
N/A	Computer Standards	<p>As a former Page in the Iowa House of Representatives, I've seen first-hand some of the computer systems and user environments at the State level. State and departmental Information Technology [IT] staff should closely examine all Software-as-a-Service [SaaS] and annually-licensed software packages. Examples would include any Microsoft Server products (such as client access licenses [CALs]) and future releases of Microsoft Office.</p> <p>Microsoft charges anywhere from \$35 to \$100+ for computers that access and use services provided by a server. Specifically, Windows Active Directory Services can be easily replaced with a free, open-source Linux alternative. Although most versions of Linux do not come with support (e.g. technical support), there are versions that are actively maintained by companies. This means that for only a flat fee of \$50 per year, a Red Hat Enterprise Linux server will receive important security updates and IT staff will be able to request assistance with any problems that arise. I encourage State of Iowa IT Staff to asses the viability of migrating ANY services to a Linux-based environment. By simply eliminating \$35 per year per user, thousands of dollars in Microsoft licensing fees can be saved.</p> <p>Also, migrating systems to a virtualized server and desktop environment could potentially save lots of time and energy. Virtual servers can shut down when they aren't being used (e.g. in the middle of the night or during low usage), which can save on energy consumption and datacenter cooling costs. Combining this system with virtual desktops (VDs) can allow for much more productive workers. Since VDs are stored on a central server, IT Staff can easily apply updates to all user files simultaneously and uniformly (depending on the method of creating VDs, an update can be applied to a base OS image, or applied to an image by department, division, etc.). Also, if a user's computer malfunctions, IT Staff simply needs to swap the machine. The user's VD will reload onto the new machine exactly as it was when their original machine failed. IT Staff would be able to instantly get the user back</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>up and running (and help the user stay productive) without the need to re-install specialized software and transfer documents and settings to the new computer. VDs also allow users to access their desktop from home, or via any Internet browser (security settings can be assigned individually or by group, department, division, etc.), allowing users to be productive even from home or on vacation. Using VDs could also allow the State of Iowa to deploy energy-efficient laptops or other mobile computing solutions without worrying about data security. Again, VDs are stored on a central server... if a laptop or device is lost or stolen, the data remains ONLY on the server, not the device. The VD solution from VMware, Inc. [vmware.com] also allows for secure connections and applies technology to shut down the VD if it's not in use.</p> <p>Unfortunately, some of these solutions require an immediate investment to implement. But re-evaluating Microsoft licenses and adopting free, open-source software solutions is a great place to start cutting out excess and unnecessary fees. Once the budget returns to a more favorable condition, it would be prudent to implement a transition to a virtual environment. Virtualization allows IT departments lots of flexibility and incredibly easy management solutions for large-scale IT systems. Combining Virtualization with energy-efficient mobile devices saves energy and lets users stay productive while on-the-go.</p>
N/A	County Reorganization	<p>I have always thought that Iowa has too many counties. If you compare us to other states maps you will see what I mean. You could combine some of the smaller counties that have small populations, and shut down some of the courthouses. The courthouses that were closed could then be sold - generating revenue - or you could donate the building to the city or local school district so that they could be used as City Halls or Schools. You could offer early retirement to staff and let the have first dibs on bidding for other state jobs. If you would cut the number of counties in half - think of the savings on staff, and upkeep of courthouses.</p> <p>Granted, this would be inconvenient for some. However you could alleviate some of this by utilizing the internet. Make voter registration automatic with the renewal of a driver's license. Make property taxes able to be paid on the internet etc.</p> <p>It would be a bitter pill for some to swallow but if you did it slowly - you could place existing staff in other state jobs so no-one would be out a job. And do some of it with attrition.</p>
N/A	County Reorganization	You keep talking about consolidating Counties. Couldn't you try to consolidate a test area?
N/A	County Reorganization	There are currently 99 counties in Iowa. Some of these counties have very low populations. Why can't we combine some of these counties and services and positions such as the DMV, county supervisors etc?
N/A	County Reorganization	Consolidate from 99 counties to 20-30.
N/A	County Reorganization	If the job of consolidating counties is too political perhaps it should be put to a vote of all Iowans. The information, such as cost saving, should be provided so that voters could make an informed decision. Calculating the cost savings should be completed by an impartial group.
N/A	County Reorganization	We keep talking about it but it never goes anywhere, Lets consolidate the number of counties in the state. All the numbers have been crunched already. We just need to implement it!

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	County Reorganization	Reduce counties from 99 to 25.
N/A	County Reorganization	<p>Surely with the recent budget crisis we can have a serious discussion about the waste inherent in our 99 county system. We all know this was designed so the county seat would not be more than a day's buggy ride from all points in the county. That doesn't seem very 21st Century to me.</p> <p>States with more land area and population do just fine with far fewer counties. Let's get serious and not decimate education and other areas that are vital to our future while maintaining an archaic unnecessary layer of county government!</p>
N/A	County Reorganization	Reduce the number of counties in Iowa to 15. There are many examples of regional government working: DOT and DNR regional field offices, COGs, AEAs. The days of needing 99 counties ended in the 20th century. Most county services can now be performed online or over the phone. Many counties share positions already, now is the time to end this redundant waste.
N/A	County Reorganization	Move Iowa to regional government, by reducing the number of counties to 50 or fewer. With technology, why do we need 99 locations to physically visit when we can buy and use services over the Internet? In the next 10 years all government services are going to be available through the Internet or in some other way via an electronic function.
N/A	County Reorganization	<p>I am a 35 year state employee and read many citizen suggestions on this website. Consolidating state and county government is a common theme and well deserved topic.</p> <p>I emailed co-chairs Senator Appel & Rep. Mascher a copy of Chief Justice Lavorato's three page 11-19-01 proposal and the Iowa Judicial Council's five page accompaniment concerning court reorganization. Much of Justice Lavorato's letter replicates the current Iowa budget situation. His ideas were logical then and remain worthy. We need to move beyond provincial and political objections to make state and county government more efficient and cost effective. I respectfully ask you and others to consider implementing some of the judicial propositions or an updated version.</p> <p>The "buggy to county seat" rationale that established Iowa's 99 counties is obsolete. Also attached is a 2006 map of Iowa counties by population. Twenty-two counties of less than 10,000 people necessitate reorganization. It is not fiscally prudent to operate 99 county courthouses (100 with two in Lee) and their respective officials.</p> <p>I realize there are many "turf" issues associated with the above concepts. However, I urge you to seriously examine these. Iowa can save significant money by using information "E-technology" as state government adapts to the 21st century. The Governor's office supports this type of computer use.</p> <p>I look forward to results of your committee's work as I will retire at the year's end. I love Iowa and plan to remain a resident. We need to continue to lead by example. We can achieve many improvements due to our state's size, population and Iowan work ethic. I am willing to assist you on a limited basis. Please forward my email and comments to any interested persons. Thanks again for assuming this extensive but meaningful task.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	County Reorganization	We need to start the consolidation of our government services. It is absolutely irresponsible that we have 100 court houses in our 99 counties. We need to look at regional governments. I know this is very controversial and a "turf" battle, but it needs to be done. We also need to do the same with schools. If our legislators would be concerned about spending and not about getting reelected they would be able to do this.
N/A	County Reorganization	It is difficult politically yet during severe financial times, there may be a chance to consolidate some of our 99 Iowa counties. If not now, when? I am sure very difficult to do yet it is easier to make the difficult decisions when faced with budget cuts throughout the entire State.
N/A	County Reorganization	Fewer counties in Iowa. 99 counties in an outdated model.
N/A	Cut Spending	UNI has there own communication station why can't you combine it with the highway patrol communication office? They are only what 10 blocks away from each other.
N/A	Cut Spending	All employees of the legislative branch -- particularly the staffs of the House and Senate -- should be required to have two weeks of furlough. This means two weeks away from the job with no compensation in salary for those two weeks.
N/A	Cut Spending	What about an across-the-board budget cut?
Justice System	Cut Spending	Stop the Government's budget cut plan that has now stopped paying for billeting, Per Diem food subsidies, and mileage to Iowa's National Guards. We volunteer our service and don't turn our backs on you. Please stop turning your backs on us. We care for all citizens Democrat and Republican, and all Iowa's tax payers.
Human Services	Cut Spending	Close either Woodward resource center or the same thing at Glenwood.
N/A	Cut Spending	STOP ALL RAISES TO ALL persons who earn IPERS benefits. That should include TEACHERS, COUNTY WORKERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, EVERYONE WHO GET IPERS not just State workers!
Human Services	Cut Spending	On state funded unemployment, aid, food stamps medical. If you can't pass a drug test no MONIES!!!
N/A	Cut Spending	Discontinue paying out funds through the Iowa Finance Authority Rent Reimbursement program. This program is not needed; people receiving refunds often use the money to fund their drug/alcohol/gambling addictions. Many recipients are already receiving subsidies on their rent so their shares are already based on income.
Human Services	Cut Spending	Eliminate the continuous eligibility for Medicaid for children. Meaning, when the parents make over the income limits, there Medicaid should end or if a child is in a PMIC then is discharged, you HAVE to look at parental income for continued Medicaid eligibility. The fact that a family that makes \$150,000 a year and a kid goes to a PMIC and is discharged and continues to receive Medicaid for years is irresponsible. The parents have the means to continue paying for the child's healthcare needs.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Justice System	Cut Spending	How about not build the new prison in Fort Madison.
Justice System	Cut Spending	Go green. Don't print anything that can be found in the ICON system. It might be a little savings, but it all adds up. And stop paying inmates to be in treatment. The fact that they're getting free treatment should be enough. On the outside, they'd be paying for those services.
Multiple Subcommittees	Cut Spending	To get through this year short-term furloughs should be considered.
N/A	Cut Spending	Offer workers furloughs, voluntary lay-off, and allowing workers to work 32 hours per wk. This would be all voluntary per worker.
N/A	Cut Spending	You could cut back on state programs that I would consider to be handouts. Get these people working! I am tired of paying for people who don't want to work.
N/A	Cut Spending	Any person making over 150,000 should take a 5-10% pay cut because without the lower man they have no purpose so if you cut all the lower positions why should they still get big pay for less work such as less to supervise and control. Sports are great but does a coach really need over 3 million a year
N/A	Cut Spending	The majority of companies in the US no longer have pension plans. My company stopped their pension plan several years ago as a cost saving measure and now just helps contribute to the employees' 401K. Though we'd all agree that pension plans are better for those that have them, it's getting down to where only public employees have them. Maybe its time to abandon IPERS and switch to a more traditional 401K plan.
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Cut Spending	For state roads, each summer I see road crews come out and either seal cracks or replace portions of highway and next year they come out again and seal the same areas and replace another chunk. It seems to me that it would be cheaper to just replace the entire section or road all at once instead of paying workers and wasting gas several times to come to the same section year after year. What is really being gained? We extend the life of the road that will eventually be replaced.
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Cut Spending	One thing I have noticed is the amount of DOT orange vehicles that are being driven home by workers. If you would make them drive their own vehicle to and from work, as other working people do, this would help to cut down on mileage, gas, and repairs.
N/A	Cut Spending	One sure way to reduce spending is for ALL State Agencies to no longer reimburse employees for meals without an overnight stay. Everyone has to take/purchase a lunch for work with out being reimbursed for it by their employer. There is no reason those state employees who travel should not have to do the same. An overnight stay, it is understandable there would be some meal costs. But if it's a one day trip, they can take/purchase a lunch like everyone else. It would save the State money in processing of travel claims and meal costs.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Cut Spending	Take away all lunch meal expenses; however, leave meals in for the traveling positions out on the road 4-5 days/week! And the ones that have a traveling position, issue them a diversified credit card (for hotels and meals). Any individual which goes over the maximum allowable, reimbursement would be made by that individual.
N/A	Cut Spending	Another option would be to push for a paperless system. With mandatory hand signatures, there is more paper in the government now than there ever was. Computers are in every office. Stop hand writing forms and keeping paper folders/copies. Go electronic, save money and trees.
N/A	Cut Spending	First, in the short time given to take the ten percent cuts, I suggest shortening all employees' hours rather than firing folks. This would leave everyone with some income and keep them from the unemployment lines, and, give the State some time to implement other cost saving procedures based on deliberate planning instead of knee jerk response to this crisis. Then, as part of taking a hard look at all agencies and offices, see what each office/agency is doing with the goal of eliminating duplication of efforts. Also, see what groups could be combined so that one administrator would be responsible for supervision and planning rather than several. Eventually, these actions may need to result in lost jobs, but make this loss the outcome of careful consideration.
N/A	Cut Spending	Iowa should seriously consider a 4 day work week for all state & university employees
N/A	Cut Spending	Don't fix pot holes on a street that is about to be resurfaced.
Justice System	Cut Spending	Our prison inmates are receiving better care than people who live outside. They need to have reductions made within, such as no cable, access to the internet, cheaper food.
N/A	Cut Spending	Bring back the chain gang cheap labor and give inmates a reason to not want to come back as well as showing them what a real days work is all about most inmates have never lifted a finger so they don't understand the concept of real work
N/A	Cut Spending	Rather than layoffs and furloughs, if we need to cut back expenses by ten percent, then ask state employees to accept one-year ten-percent pay cuts. Departments that comply will not lose personnel. Departments that do not voluntarily accept pay cuts will lose personnel.
N/A	Cut Spending	Personally, I think many government employees, from the top to the bottom are overpaid. Let's start at the very top, and cut salaries, not just for one year, but readjusted. If employees don't want to take the pay cut, they can leave and allow others to take the offered salary. I'm not talking about taking a police officer's salary and cutting it 10%. I'm thinking like 50% on school administrators and job eliminations and consolidation. Same goes for City, Country, and State administrators.
N/A	Cut Spending	Turn off the offices lights, monitors, electric-etc, at night, since more of the buildings are locked or have a security guard present.
N/A	Cut Spending	Reduce or remove RIO. The people in that office don't know anything about planning, rebuilding, or how to work with rural communities or any community for that matter. They just take what the hard working professionals are doing and say it was their idea. No need for them, especially when three attend a two community event and do nothing but sit in the corner and learn what they don't know.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Cut Spending	Take cable out of prisons, it is a privilege not a necessity. Take away free prisoner legal options, example frivolous law-suits spending the states resources that are a "right" they gave up when crimes committed.
N/A	Cut Spending	Considering that the Legislature and the Governor were responsible for the insane budget increases over the last two years, A one day per week unpaid furlough should be the least they could do. Everyone else is paying for their mismanagement.
N/A	Cut Spending	State issued vehicles should be replaced with people using their own vehicles and the state paying mileage instead. Look at current research studies, are all of them needed? Can they be trimmed back? Close down DMV's one day a week, I know ours is running 6 days a week, I think Saturdays still need to be available to people, but maybe shut down on Mondays. Pay less on health insurance, etc. for government employees, the general population pays far more for their employer based insurance.
N/A	Cut Spending	Eliminate the reimbursement of in-state meal expenditures when there is no overnight stay. Most state employees eat out for lunch anyway.
N/A	Cut Spending	For everyone in government implement 30% Pay cuts, delete work travel luxuries (i.e. family time, entertainment, basic wastefulness) Social Security benefits like the average American (i.e. not keeping the last annual salary after retirement till death, that must be stopped like the average American's does) Medical Insurance to meet an adjustment as well (i.e. less coverage and higher co-pays like the average American's is now) also needs to be implemented before and after retirement.
		We have to watch our spending as well as TAKING. And of course I believe in the above example suggestion they used in the article. Overall, if we ALL stop being wasteful, we may come out of this. This as well should be updated annually. Even sometimes we don't get what we deserve but take anyway
N/A	Cut Spending	Cut the union wages and get rid of the unions. Everyone in government take a 25 percent pay cut. Get pay in line with real workers and benefits too!
N/A	Cut Spending	Similar to Utah, exploring the cost savings of moving government services (where ever feasible) to a four-day work week. Savings include energy (i.e., heat and AC reductions) as well as commuting. Extended hours also assist working Iowans who work 8 to 5.
N/A	Cut Spending	Require that all printing and copying done by state agencies be duplexed (two-side) unless (1) the printer or copier being used does not support duplexing or (2) there is a good business reason for one-sided copying. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory instituted such a policy several years ago and reduced paper purchases substantially.
Education	Cut Spending	Eliminate "library services areas," otherwise known as "regional libraries" and their boards. Iowa is small enough geographically that the State Library of Iowa could provide support to local libraries statewide; it may be desirable to retain some of the staff of the current system and create a local library services unit of the State Library. Elimination of boards and directors of the current units will result in cost saving.
N/A	Cut Spending	Eliminate per diem payments for appointed members of boards and commissions, except for those qualify on the basis of financial hardship.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Cut Spending	Review everyone's salary from the top down. If we are having budget problems then our "Public Servants" should be getting pay cuts like everyone else. On a related note, private contributions to political parties should be stopped immediately and indefinitely. Allowing them opens a ridiculously large door for corruption.
Education	Cut Spending	Eliminate ISU Extension. What does it do anyway?
N/A	Cut Spending	Stop letting state employees take home cars and stop purchasing fancy cars. No more "perks" such as food and office parties on state money.
Education	Cut Spending	First: Eliminate the Iowa Board of Regents Board Office. The board office staff is a duplication of what is being done at the university level. Universities provide information to board staff so that they can duplicate that information into board packets. The Regents do not require media specialists that already exist at the university AND state level. By eliminating the salaries, benefits, and overhead of rented office space in Urbandale the State saves several million. Holding Regents meetings in Des Moines or at a university instead of resort hotels will also save money. Provide a per diem for a meeting instead of special drivers or flights on state owned airplanes.
N/A	Cut Spending	Second Item: Eliminating the Highway Patrol. This may sound anti-police but it is not. The Highway Patrol's primary purpose is patrolling the highways. By eliminating the Patrol and the support staff and infrastructure that goes with it and then turning a portion of the savings over to the individual counties, you are enhancing LOCAL police efforts. The hundreds of millions of dollars spent on equipment, salaries, benefits, multiple facilities, and self funded insurance can be put to better use locally. The State could eliminate all of the costs and then turn around and give local police agencies 50% of the annual savings and STILL be ahead another 50%. In the event of an emergency in Iowa the Patrol is not the first line of response under NIMS. Local agencies and, if large enough, the National Guard via the EMD are the responders with local police. Eliminate high work comp claims, 411-like retirement benefits, along with the rest and there will be significant savings with no reduction in services.
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Cut Spending	Follow other states' leads, and discontinue the mandated use of front license plates on autos. Maintain the current registration rates, so the savings are kept by the state.
Education	Cut Spending	Close the Braille School. There are very few students there, and they should be served in their local schools.
N/A	Cut Spending	This survey was already done a year ago before the current budget was passed by both the Dems and Reps. Take a look at those. Get rid of the newly created Rebuild Iowa Office. We don't need another agency
N/A	Cut Spending	Eliminate: Iowa Power Fund: Iowa Energy Center, Iowa Office of Energy Independence, All funding for Global Warming and Climate Change (which is the greatest hoax ever), Cut all funding for DNR for 10 years.
N/A	Cut Spending	Stop spending money on Alternative Energy. Energy prices were very reasonable until government started to regulate drilling and mining.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Education	Cut Spending	SPAN OF CONTROL: From the bottom looking up, the UI is top-heavy with administrators. For example, in my department of 28, we have 6 supervisors. This is over-kill at a ratio of approx. 1 supervisor for every 5 employees. This is just ONE example in ONE department. Note: The Iowa General Government ratio is 1:14. For some reason, the Regent's institutions are exempt from span of control standards. Mandating that span-of-control 1:14 regulations also apply to Regent's institutions would save major \$\$ in wages and benefits as well as increased productivity and efficiency. Apply Span of Control standards to Regents' institutions.
Human Services	Cut Spending	Get rid of the tobacco division in the IDPH and its Commission and put that responsibility under the behavioral health division and the public health board. After all, smoking is a behavior.
N/A	Cut Spending	Establish stringent restrictions on use of personal appliances in state offices and ENFORCE THEM. No personal refrigerators in individual carrels or offices, no space heaters, no individual coffee pots, no hot plates. Consequence of repeated violations should be disciplinary action or confiscation of the offending appliance(s) or both. Exceptions could be made for medical necessity (e.g., small personal refrigerator to store medicines which to be kept cool).
Justice System	Cut Spending	The following is directed to the department of public safety: Eliminate CALEA and its support staff. There is no need for two Public Safety PIO positions, no need for a recruitment division.
N/A	Cut Spending	All top officials should be required to take a pay cut before laying off the front line workers. Furloughs for the front line workers hurts them double, they are already struggling. There are so many of you that could take substantial pay cuts and still live very comfortably. Also, there are too many levels of management. Look at the hierarchy, some of them could be cut. Look at consolidating offices/locations. But before you do anything, pay cuts for anybody making over \$75,000.00 annually.
N/A	Cut Spending	Prohibit the purchase of vehicles for employees. Use a system that is makes state employees share vehicles for work related transportation. I see too many state cars parked in residential driveways.
N/A	Cut Spending	All government employees could (and should) pay part of their health benefits, just like those of us who are have to pay for this benefit. This would set a precedent that our state is truly looking out for the well being of its taxpayers. As well, could eliminate some layoffs and cuts, such as education. Simple math!
N/A	Cut Spending	What I would like to know is why 10% of the state employees will be taking on 100% of the budget issues. Why aren't we asking every state employee for a 10% decrease in pay so no one is laid off? You might be surprised to find out that if you talk to all employees and let them know about the issues they would most likely take a cut in pay versus taking the risk of getting laid off. 10% cut in pay is easier to cope with then losing 100% of your pay.
Justice System	Cut Spending	15 minutes out of each hour, have the state troopers stop their cars and be stationary but still patrolling such as setting up more speed traps. Saves fuel while keeping the officers busy.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Cut Spending	All hourly state employees would work 35 hours a week. All salaried employees earning 50k or less should take a 5% reduction in pay. State employees making 51k and above should take a 10% reduction in pay. All elected officials 15% reduction in pay and no expense accounts. After they are public servants, time to really serve. Fire and Police no reduction in pay and no raises for a year.
Justice System	Cut Spending	Drop the CALEA certification program within DPS. It is costing many dollars in salaries and infrastructure requirements at a time we can not afford it.
N/A	Cut Spending	Please make sure all heads of departments take a pay freeze like the rest of state employees.
Education	Cut Spending	Area Education Agencies. They are bloated wastes of taxpayer money. Some things they do are good, like the video sharing. However they have too many administrators and too many people attending meetings and classes that don't ever benefit students. Ask any teacher or administrator and they will agree.
Human Services	Cut Spending	<p>I think a reasonable and cost effective solution to trimming the DHS/State budget is furloughing state employees. If every employee were to have furlough days, it would significantly help budget shortcomings. Also, if furlough days were days before and/or after holidays, most people would be more than happy to take time off.</p> <p>Also, why not consider cutting the Medical Transportation reimbursement program? I personally find this program totally and completely unnecessary. Medicaid pays for the cost of all medical services to the Title-XIX recipient. Did you also know that if someone sees a doctor out of town and they have a referral, we also reimburse their transportation to and from, and also their cost of meals? Why should we pay this cost? Our private insurance policies (that we pay for) would never allow such reimbursements! If added up, the total cost that Iowa pays for transportation reimbursement alone would be astonishing and would probably make up the budget deficit itself. To me this is the most logical solution. I can think of several cases in our county alone that unfortunately abuse this program. And, you have to consider the time it takes for employees to process the claims. I think MOST DHS workers would agree with this suggestion. Why cut jobs from hard working Iowans when there are other solutions? Thank you for your consideration.</p>
N/A	Cut Spending	<p>For improving the budget for the state of Iowa. The one suggestion that I have start with the Department of Corrections. I know that there are criminals in there that shouldn't be let out onto the street, and that is not my intentions here. My intentions here are to discuss the mandatory minimum prison sentences, I believe to save on the governments budget and on a lot of tax payers, when inmates have served at least 50% of their sentences AND have been model inmates they should be allowed to do the remaining part of their sentences via home released, but not to be free. They should have a monitoring device put on them, this way they can go out in the world and find a job and truly pay their debt to society. Now I don't think that it should be all of the tax payer's responsibility to take care of these grown adults completely. It would help the Iowa budget a lot if these people that were able to do this, paid their fines and restitution, plus have to also pay a portion of their confinement.</p>
N/A	Cut Spending	We should run the state and county governments like a business would have to do in tight times. First' take away some of the paid sick and casual days employees get, freeze pay raises, put a cap on how much vacation a person can get, cut back to 4 day weeks staggering work force to cover the whole week, reduce some of their benefits. It is time that state & county employees feel the same pinch as people working in factories and other small businesses.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Cut Spending	Idea for Cost Savings/efficiency/sustainability - Remove the requirement for government publication in newspapers, allowing electronic publication on a web site.
N/A	Cut Spending	I travel by the Capital complex every weekday morning usually before 6:00 am and have always wondered what the reasoning was for having every light on in every building. I would think turning off the lights would probably save the state government a lot of money. I am sure there is no one in the in the old historical building that early. There are probably no meetings in the conference rooms at Workforce Development at that hour and from the parking areas around the Capital that every office in the other buildings does not have the employees present. I have always thought someone should show the employees where the light switches are to save money.
N/A	Cut Spending	For most all meetings held individuals have to travel generally to Des Moines, why not use ICN rooms to save fuel and maintenance on vehicles that is accumulated from this.
N/A	Cut Spending	I think you should consider cutting pay of some managers or eliminating some. Too many managers for one agency.
N/A	Cut Spending	I believe this is the most devastating thing that could happen to the state of Iowa. State employees must keep jobs. The State should not cut jobs - furloughs should be used instead of layoffs.
N/A	Cut Spending	Build a prison in Mexico for illegal immigrants that commit crimes in Iowa pay Mexico \$5,000 per inmate and you have about a \$23,000 savings per inmate. Why do we house and provide treatment for illegal immigrants?
N/A	Cut Spending	First all, the IPERS program. It should not be at the taxpayers' expense to fund this program. These employees work 30 years and can retire as young as 55 years old and receive a HUGE retirement. These retired people make more than most working people, how fair is that, and at the taxpayers' expense? And why is it that the State of Iowa has highest paid state workers in the country? And now our state government wants to give them an early retirement with a partial insurance benefit. I would like to know how many employees there are in this state and the total IPERS payout per year. What is wrong with our State?? I think that most people are totally unaware of this.
Human Services	Cut Spending	I receive a check from the state for my adopted daughter. I also get a statement saying that the check has been sent. I don't really need the statement as I know when I should receive the check and the statement usually comes the same day or a day or two later than the check. It very rarely comes before the check.
N/A	Cut Spending	I understand why you are going to reduce the state budget across the board 10% to help with financial issues. What I would like to see to help with state spending is a reduction in legislative pay and also I feel they should have to pay something for there health care as I pay \$100.00 per week for mine. I also have a small business and struggle to provide health care to my employees as well.
N/A	Cut Spending	Our state government for several years has been operating with our legislators thinking mainly of their districts, which of course, gets votes, but their goals should be "what is the plan for the whole state". As we have all witnessed what happens when this is the approach taken, our Federal Government has shown us what greed, power, and corruption can lead too.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>I suggest you start at the top and reduce wages. Do we really need to have a college coach that receives the highest state salary? Go through every state department and facility, including our legislators, and roll back salaries. This includes state, county, and etc. Salaries have escalated far and beyond the average Iowa citizen's salary.</p> <p>And, like the Federal Government, we would not be in this mess, if our elected officials, truly were working for the State of Iowa. It would be amazing how much revenue this would raise for education, improvements, health, and etc. If I recall correctly, Gov. Culver stated he would be the first to take a pay cut, it's time!!</p>
Justice System	Cut Spending	The state could save money if they would have Oakdale Correctional Officers guard prisoners that are hospitalized at U of I hospitals that are from Mt. Pleasant, Ft. Madison and other facilities, rather than sending officers from those facilities to guard them. The current policy requires each shift to send an officer per inmate back and forth using State vehicles. This is not cost effective. The price of gas, vehicle maintenance and a lot of overtime. If Oakdale provided the COs, even though they may have to hire more personnel, I believe it would be more cost effective.
Admin & Regulation	Cut Spending	I would like to see Chet Culver put an end to the high priced body guards he has for his children. The money used to pay for that service could be used to help many children rather than just two children. He should have to pay for his own child care just like the other Iowans do.
N/A	Cut Spending	Focus on your constitutionally mandated requirements. Those should be funded first. No new initiatives, no pet projects, and no pork.
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Cut Spending	Eliminate the DOT fleet of light blue, fully equipped patrol cars and their drivers. It is not unusual to see six or eight of these cars sitting at one of the states "Tajo Mahal" weigh stations doing nothing more then weighing trucks. I know of no other state with such a fleet or staff. Take a lesson from other states. Use the State Patrol or part time employees using their own vehicles to drive to the weigh stations to weigh trucks.
N/A	Cut Spending	Take a 10% cut in wages across the board, starting with the Governor on down.
Justice System	Cut Spending	The DPS should eliminate all spending on any unnecessary areas, such as: CALEA and the CALEA coordinator; Media Relations and the 2 media relations people; Recruiting and the recruiter, non-essential training and equipment; etc.
Education	Cut Spending	I've been in public education for 21 years and have asked this question many times before, how can the AEA system continue to operate as it does? It is a huge bureaucratic organization. There are layers of people who do not work with children or teachers. At every training I attend, there are AEA consultants attending, too, so they can learn what I am learning and take the new information back to the schools. This is probably the greatest duplications of effort observed. I am very capable of telling my staff what they need to know. My biggest question is related to the "pass through" funding AEAs receive for special education services. These are services that must be provided no matter what, by the public schools. Often a district has a special education deficit because of the pass through and the amount then must be paid through additional property tax. I think many district patrons pay taxes twice for services that we have to provide and do provide, regardless of AEA staff involvement. I'm just not sure tax payers realize this. It was time to change this organization many years ago. Now, I believe it is necessary, as we need to preserve public education and all of the great things we offer to ALL children. We know how to do our jobs and we do them well.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Cut Spending	I trust the governor will also be taking a 10% pay cut, if he is cutting the state budget by 10%. Same for his staff and all other elected officials.
N/A	Cut Spending	Stop the misuse of Title XIX. If I didn't have to pay to see the Dr. I could also make Dr. visits my social life. It used to be a man would marry and pay for children he fathered. Now the wedding, if there is one, is after the hospital bill is paid for by the state.
N/A	Cut Spending	Take an objective look at the senior judge program. How many hours of the 13 "on call" weeks do they actually work? \$7,000 pay PLUS fully paid family insurance for the whole year PLUS the increase in retirement adds up to a substantial amount of money when you take it times 30+ senior judges and an additional 30+ ready to go into senior status. Isn't it time to be realistic that the budget cannot continue this money pit? You could also require the current judges to not refuse to take an assignment when they want an afternoon off (with pay and without taking vacation). This alone would eliminate the need for the senior judge program.
N/A	Cut Spending	<p>What the state government needs to look into are the Iowa daycare low income assistance program and the daycare provider food program (not sure of the exact program names) here is the rundown of how our tax dollars are being squandered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the state reimburses or pays daycare providers of "low income" parents at an hourly rate higher than that of daycare costs for those of us that have to pay for it. • these daycare providers are sometimes close relatives or friends of the "low income" parent and will mark down hours for which the child is not under their care and sometimes splitting the money with the "low income" parent. • have firsthand knowledge of a daycare provider who has claimed a child to quote "get state pay" and the child has not been at that daycare for several months. • I know daycare centers and home daycares that intentionally try to get "low income" daycare assistance children to get state pay. <p>THERE IS NOT ENOUGH POLICING ON THESE DAYCARE PAY PROGRAMS - PLEASE LOOK INTO IT!</p> <p>Lastly we need to check into the daycare provider food program. Here is why, - I know of an in home daycare that receives \$700 plus in "food assistance for the daycare children" now that sounds great doesn't it but here is the catch she only has 7 kids all under age 5 in her daycare, I have a family of four (2 adults and 2 teens) that eats very well and we spend only \$500 if that a month. Also the \$700 comes in a check payable to the daycare provider not as a food stamp card like you might think. So most of this check goes right into this person's bank account. I'm sure this isn't the only in-home daycare in Iowa doing this.</p> <p>SO PLEASE LOOK INTO THESE MATTERS THEY WILL SAVE US LOTS OF MONEY</p>
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Cut Spending	Is it necessary to rebuild all of our roadside bathrooms to the extent we have? I believe what was there was fine. In many cases we have torn adequate buildings down and are building on the same site. I do not think we need WI-FI at rest areas either.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Cut Spending	<p>I worked in the Department of Corrections retiring in April 2008 after serving 35 years. Most of this time was spent in Community Corrections working as a Residential Manager for the 2nd Judicial District.</p> <p>With the current economic difficulties facing our state I would like to present what I believe could be a huge savings to our budget - eliminate the Judicial Districts Department of Correctional Services. Payroll could be administered easily through State payroll with very little difficulty. Much of the hierarchy that currently exists in Community Corrections could be eliminated. Examples of positions that would not be needed include Judicial District Directors, Assistant Directors, Division Managers, Personnel and Payroll positions.</p> <p>This idea is not a new one and was explored just a couple of years ago. However, with the State's economy worsening each day I believe strongly that this should be revisited again.</p> <p>A second idea to ease the budget would be to eliminate the Board of Parole. The existing Department of Corrections could easily assume responsibility for determining who are worthy and good risk inmates to release into the community.</p> <p>I would be happy to provide additional information or serve on any committee which might be developed to deal with this topic.</p>
N/A	Cut Spending	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completely close the less than full time offices. That would eliminate a lot of office supplies, utilities, and building maintenance costs. Even at less than full time, those costs can add up to a sizeable amount. The LTFT offices could be integrated into the FT offices that are currently covering them. 2. Offer voluntary retirement incentives for those workers at the top of the pay scales that are close to retirement, but maybe not quite there. That would cut a larger salary than a new hire being laid off would.
N/A	Cut Spending	<p>This may not be an immediate large amount of savings, but I work in a large office building within DHS and I'm astonished at the waste of energy! Computer monitors, computers, lights, office equipment, etcetera are left on while offices are staffed only between the hours of 7-6 M-F. That means for over 12 hours each night, and 24 hours on the weekends our buildings are wasting operational dollars on energy that's not being used. I make an attempt to turn off the light in restrooms and my office while leaving, but there some offices without light switches. Does it make sense to leave a light on while a worker is absent for a weeklong vacation? I know we have cleaning crews, they can flip a switch. I know our computers need to update software. Why not schedule Wednesday night as that night for the download, every other night we shut down our computers. If the savings were calculated and presented, I'm sure you'd have some flabbergasted peers. I've done this at home (turning off all non-essential electricity) and have noticed a 30% reduction in my energy bill.</p>
N/A	Cut Spending	<p>Similar to Utah, exploring the cost savings of moving government services (where ever feasible) to a four-day work week. Savings include energy (i.e., heat and AC reductions) as well as commuting. Extended hours also assist working Iowans who work 8 to 5.</p> <p>I COMPLETELY AGREE AND WOULD SUPPORT THIS! THE GOVERNOR WAS SEEKING INPUT ON THIS SAME SUBJECT A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, BUT NOTHING CAME OUT OF IT.</p>
N/A	Cut Spending	<p>Cut managers wages and you may just want to lay some of them off. Too many managers per one agency.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Cut Spending	Change the law to no longer require a front license plate on motor vehicles! Other states have done this or are considering this option!
Education	Cut Spending	Embrace technology. A minimal computer based instruction program should result in a 10% decrease in educational costs while a reasonable implementation should reduce costs by 50%. While costs go down, educational quality goes up, because every student is educated by the very best teachers in that discipline and no student is allowed to “get by”. This approach also solves all of Iowa “rural access” and associated quality of education issues. Check the Op-ED piece in the DSM Register by Crosby (June 16, 2009, page A23). All 17 states that have created CBI program have done so by legislative mandate. Iowa will be no different. Utah’s Department of Education has actually created a for-profit subsidiary to sell its CBI programs to other states. Maybe our state universities can also turn a profit.
N/A	Cut Spending	<p>Budget crunch. With the Department of Public Safety it has been suggested that 169 jobs will be eliminated over the next two years. Let us start by eliminating jobs that weren’t a part of State Government 10 years ago. (Extensive increase in DAS and DOJ) in DPS we now have recruiting and Public information offices that had been handled locally.</p> <p>How about early retirement to fill some of the possible lay-offs. We know that Senior Employees wages outweigh that of Junior personnel. Many of the younger personnel have just started building families and purchasing homes. Let us reconsider any lay-offs.</p> <p>Through DPS many district offices need to be replaced. In these electronic times let us close some of these obsolete offices and combine the forces that we have left into a more viable force. More workers (lower paid) and less supervisory positions (higher paid).</p>
Education	Cut Spending	I feel that we are very top heavy in the AEA Education system. We could reduce our debt by almost 3 million dollars by getting rid of administrators that are coasting on 130 to 150 thousand dollars each while our schools and public safety officers take the blunt of our cuts.
N/A	Cut Spending	Put government offices on a 4 day work week. Don't reduce government employee salaries. We already have a difficult time keeping workers here. Don't give them incentive to leave the state. Instead of increasing salaries, offer other perks (more vacation, comp time, or free snacks!).
N/A	Cut Spending	Start school superintendant sharing especially in rural areas. Most of them are way overpaid for the work they do.
N/A	Cut Spending	You could take all the lights out of pop machines in side buildings to save energy. You can still see the kind of soda your getting it doesn’t need to be lit up. I know Wal-Mart did this inside there break rooms and they saved thousands of dollars!
N/A	Cut Spending	I would like to make the suggestion that all State employees be awarded comp time for all State holidays instead of having the option of being paid holiday time in cash for the same said holidays. I feel this would help save on the State budget until such time the economical short fall is fixed.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Cut Spending	The Department of Transportation Highway Maintenance division for example, has a position called "Garage Operations Assistant". This is a blue collar union position that is way overpaid for the duties assigned. This position was targeted for elimination during the 2002 RIF but for some reason wasn't. This is just one example of many non essential state jobs that could be eliminated to save money yet have little or no impact on the DOT's service to the public. Rather than cut at the bottom pay grades where the real work is being done, these types of high paid job classes should be considered for elimination first. Thank you.
N/A	Cut Spending	<p>The legal publication sections of local newspapers are hopelessly obsolete and expensive. Rather than printing financial transactions for municipalities, community colleges, etc in thousands of inches of tiny, disorganized print, require the information to be posted on a website. This would not only be far cheaper, but more useful as well. Those in need of the information could call it up from their browsers, keyword or "string" search it, and have their information; even years later.</p> <p>This approach wouldn't require much technical sophistication and the infrastructure is already present. The State Data Center is already in existence and could provide better, more reliable service, for pennies on the dollar. The only parties who could possibly oppose this would be newspapers that rely heavily upon what amounts to a subsidy for legal publications and lawyers who want to limit access to information.</p>
N/A	Cut Spending	Why do we pay MVE officers for meals every work day?
N/A	Cut Spending	Do not let state employees take state vehicle homes. Everyone should be responsible for getting to their work place in their own vehicles and at their own expense.
N/A	Cut Spending	It is time to stop funding the RIO office and combine all of that with Homeland Security. Homeland Security is duplicating efforts right now. They have handled all of these tasks in the past and will continue to do so after the RIO is gone.
N/A	Cut Spending	Eliminate all State workers bonuses accept contractual like coaches.
N/A	Cut Spending	End free housing for state employees. Either sell all state owned houses or charge fair market rent. No more free housing as a benefit with free utilities.
N/A	Cut Spending	How about cutting all upgrades and new positions created after 2001 budget cuts. In most cases we would probably be far enough in the black to hire state workers.
N/A	Cut Spending	<p>1. Have the offices implement a Compressed work week schedule. If the offices were open 4 days a week instead of 5, you would have the savings of the utilities not being used one day per week. While this may not seem like much, it can add up when you take all the offices into account. Also, extending the workday to 10 hour days instead of 8-4:30 would be more convenient to some of the customers who work similar hours, and enable them to come in to the office without having to take time off of work.</p> <p>2. Close the Less Than Full Time offices and consolidate them into the Full Time offices that are covering them. Again, you would have the savings of Utilities that is not being used in the other building. Not to mention the Building Rent/Maintenance fees, a separate Office Supply Expense, etc. Have all the workers that are currently working in those LTFT offices move to the Full Time County responsible for them. This would also make those workers in the LTFT offices</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		more accessible to their clients. Most of the DHS applications can be handled over the phone now, so an in person interview in the LTFT County is not as important as it was when they converted these offices in this way.
Education	Cut Spending	Drop ISU Extension, it is far too costly to taxpayers for the small amount of Iowans that use it any more. There programs are poorly attended as everyone uses the internet to find answers now. The employees salaries are too high, too many paid days off and far too much sick time for the outcomes they get. Iowans are paying through state taxes, property taxes and their child's college tuition to support Extension.
N/A	Cut Spending	Consolidate boards, commission, and councils so that there is no more than one such body covering a major policy area. Example 1: Eliminate Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, and assign their responsibilities to Criminal and Juvenile Justice Advisory Council. Example 2: Consolidate Persons with Disabilities Commission, Olmstead Real Choice Task Force, Developmental Disabilities Council (and any other such bodies with related missions). While the members are largely citizen volunteers, per diem and expense payments add up to significant amount of money annually.
N/A	Cut Spending	Revise requirements of submission of proposals in response to RFP's to eliminate large number of hard copies and require that any hard copies of proposals to be submitted be duplex printed (two-sided).
N/A	Cut Spending	Apply reimbursement limits on meals and lodging which apply to state employees while traveling on state business to board, commission, and council members traveling on state business and to administrators at all levels.
N/A	Cut Spending	The Iowa One Gift Program is a wonderful program, however, perhaps the state could save some money if the following changes were made: 1. Make payments to organizations quarterly instead of monthly. 2. Make payments electronically instead of sending an actual check in the mail.
Education	Cut Spending	Combine the three state universities to one new University of Iowa. Sell the sports complexes at Ames and Cedar Falls or raze them. The state of Iowa would be like Nebraska. Duplication would be reduced and available resources would increase.
N/A	Cut Spending	Eliminate state-funded Blackberries, I-Phones, etc. This expensive toy has become the status symbol among middle managers. Managers should either be in their offices supervising their employees, where they can be reached by land line or in meetings where they should be paying attention, not text messaging their lunch plans and jokes to each other. Actually, except for division heads and field staff, no state employee should be getting expensive phone service for free - unscrupulous managers use their blackberries to be off-site or at home - and no one can prove it. Actually, perhaps the layoffs should BEGIN with middle managers who have Blackberries - obviously they don't have enough to do with their time. If they want to feel important, they can pay for their own phone toys.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Cut Spending	<p>SALT LAKE CITY – Closing Utah state offices on Fridays has delivered an unexpected bonus: a big saving on overtime pay. New calculations show Utah saved \$4.1 million in the first year of a government experiment with a four-day workweek. State employees were eager to leave after the longer workday, and weren't inclined to work an extra hour or two. They're getting what they need to get done in 10 hours and going home," said Angie Welling, spokeswoman for Gov. Gary Herbert. "The state envisioned some energy savings, but that overtime number was not anticipated," she said Wednesday.</p> <p>Utah was the first state in the country to shut down most of its services on Fridays. Other states took notice. Hawaii tried a limited four-day week last fall, when a similar program was under way in Washington state. Lawmakers in at least two other states — West Virginia and Virginia — have also looked into adopting a four-day workweek.</p> <p>Former Gov. Jon Huntsman made the switch for Utah in August 2008, largely to cut energy costs. Utah, however, achieved only a sixth of the \$3 million it expected to trim on energy costs. The state couldn't shut down as many state buildings as it planned on Fridays, officials said, and it didn't save much by closing the smaller buildings. Also, the state assumed gasoline for state fleet car use and building utility costs would soar, and it would save as much.</p> <p>Both expenditures actually fell over the past year, however. Utah has some of the lowest utility rates in the country. The energy saving came out to \$502,000 for the year. The state also saved \$200,000 on janitorial services. With reduced overtime expenses, the total saving was \$4.8 million. The figures were released Wednesday by Herbert's strategic planner, Mike Hansen. The new governor — Huntsman left to become the U.S. ambassador to China — is undecided on whether to stick with the program, Welling said.</p> <p>He's still reviewing the results. He feels like we have good data on the amount of cost savings, employee satisfaction and the energy reduction. What he thinks is missing is input from the public," she said. To that end, Herbert will commission a poll of public sentiment - citizens lost a day of government service with the switch. State workers are largely happy. Another survey found 85 percent of the workers like working four longer days better than five shorter ones. Working mothers like Carolyn Dennis who has two young sons found a way to adjust. "It's actually a lot easier than the five-hour day, because I have all day Friday to clean and run errands and still have the whole weekend to spend with my kids," said Dennis, customer service manager for the Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing. I actually found it's freed up my time. We never did anything in the evening anyway, but having that extra day has made it easier to be a working mom.</p> <p>Dennis leaves the Salt Lake City suburb of West Jordan at 5:45 a.m. with her youngest, a 2-year-old, in tow. She drops him at a day care center near work in downtown Salt Lake City. Her husband, a business owner, drops the couple's 7-year-old son, a first-grader, at school. Dennis works from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., skipping lunch hour and leaving a half-hour earlier than normal. That allows her to cut down a long day for her youngest. I started out getting him dressed while he was still asleep, but now he's getting up early for breakfast. Ryan is still on a malleable infant schedule. He's happy and smiling when I drop him off, so it makes my day go better," she said. All things considered, Dennis would never switch back. I do love the 4/10 and told my boss if they take it away, I'll probably cry," she said.</p>
N/A	Cut Spending	<p>Personally I think the state really needs to look at ratio of supervisors to workers. I have never worked for any company that had 42 workers and 3 supervisors. Unless they are going to join in the workflow there is no need to have this many supervisors</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Cut Spending	Do away with pop {soda}, chips, candy bars, jerky and junk food gotten on EBT cards. Don't give Hawki health care to anyone other than Iowa citizens, US citizens, not foreigners. Don't give braces for teeth to Hawki users. It should just be minimum care not luxury care like the Senators. My very good health does not give me braces or hearing aids. My kids are grown they didn't get braces because we couldn't afford them, but those who can't afford them are getting them with my money! That's wrong. I'm paying for their pop and candy every day with my money, and then you cry obesity. Free junk food is part of the problem.
N/A	Cut Spending	<p>After reading several of the comments about finding solutions to fix the state budget I see a lot with the theme on state wages being out of control. If you're really interested in getting control of the wages and solving the budget problems for the future you will need to pass legislation mandating that all collective bargaining raises be paid out in a set amount instead of percentages. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to know that someone making \$100,000 will get more in a pay raise than someone making \$50,000 and less when an a cross the board raise is agreed to. Most upper management will agree with the raises because it is also passed unto them, so they know they'll get a nice raise. There is a reason why the saying "the rich get richer while the poor get poorer." They have more money and the percentage paid out to them just keeps the pot growing and growing.</p> <p>Again instead of the percentage, say everyone gets a .10 cent an hour pay raise which will .80 cent a day more, \$64.00 for an 80 hour week and \$1,664 a year for the 26 pay periods. It is fair to everyone because you know it is a set amount rather than say a 2% pay raise where given to someone making over \$100,000 will get \$2,000, \$50,000 or more gets \$1,000 and those poor workers at the bottom of the pay scale making around \$25,000 will only get \$500 more. I hope you get the idea that if the practice isn't stopped it will only make things worse.</p>
N/A	Cut Spending	Quit buying new trip vans to transport inmates across the state at 100,000 miles. These vans can be used until they have 150,000 miles and then put new motors and transmissions in them and run them another 100,000 before getting rid of them. Stop buying new vehicles to run around perimeter fences at the prisons. Use older vehicles for this purpose.
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Cut Spending	Change the Iowa Code Section 321.37(1) requiring front vehicle license plate. Plus eliminate the county name as is done on specialty plates for privacy reasons. Benefits: 50% less material time and weigh less when shipped. Easier inventory mgmt and quicker shipments from prison "factory". Allow automobile owners to more easily maintain the vehicle and eliminate the need for the purchase of a front bumper bracket. Reduces the amount of new license plates issued at county offices as the front license plates are more frequently damaged in accidents or lost on the road from a bracket coming loose.
N/A	Cut Spending	Increase fees for filing UCC's, new corporations, new LLC's, etc. Increase revenue stamps on conveyances. Don't send out blank income tax booklets, quarterly withholding/sales tax forms, envelopes or estimate forms--most people have someone do online or on computer program and print out forms for clients.
N/A	Cut Spending	You could have state employees contribute toward their health insurance and implement 4 day work weeks.
N/A	Cut Spending	State Vehicles be renewed every 5 yrs or 200,000 miles. Does the State really need all the autos they have at the car pool? If one was to really check you will find that some of them probably are not used much. Why have them.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Justice System	Cut Spending	Give offenders in the DOC the opportunity to purchase their own bedding and pillows, have them sign a form so the state is not responsible for damage. Give an offender a job (which is required for all offenders to work) of repairing state issued offender clothing. It wouldn't hurt for them to wear patched clothing. Make offenders pay a small fee for medication, not including psych medications. If Offenders had to pay even 25 cents for medication I'm sure the savings would be significant. They have money to buy junk food on commissary but expect the state to give them medication because they pulled a muscle lifting weights. Mandate that only generic medication be issued unless a generic is not available. The amount of money spent on offender medication is astronomical. Do not give offenders medicine to help them sleep. If they worked and stayed up during the day, they could sleep at night. If medication is available on commissary they should have to purchase it. This would include Tylenol, aspirin, ibuprofen, cold medicine, etc.
N/A	Cut Spending	Save tax dollars by developing Regional or County Superintendents for schools in Iowa. To allow ease in bargaining issues & to demonstrate ownership of its educators, Iowa should develop a state pay grid for Iowa educators & expand state employee insurance programs to cover all teachers in Iowa.
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Cut Spending	Some other states do not require a front license plate for cars. Seems like Iowa could save some money if we were just required to have rear license plates.
Human Services	Cut Spending	Change the DHS Administrative Rules, from requiring outside, national accreditation for MH/MR/DD agencies to a similar, but in-state accreditation program that mirrors national accreditation standards. So much tax money is going out-of-state for accreditation fees and expenses that should be kept in Iowa.
Human Services	Cut Spending	Eliminate The Child Support Recovery office. Make child support payments go through any one of Iowa's collection agencies and allow the collection agencies to take 2 - 5% of the money off the top for their fee. The Child Support office is inefficient, and have amassed powers for themselves they should not have. Besides, it should not be the burden of the citizens of the State of Iowa to pay the cost to recoup support money in a divorce.
Education	Cut Spending	Plain and simple, Close down Price Lab School in cedar falls. The teachers there would go back into the system in the College Of Education anyhow. The cost to maintain the VERY OLD and mechanically outdated building has to be outrageous, let along the fact that there are other districts in the state of Iowa that have been to forced to merge with other districts due to very low enrollment numbers, (11 kids in the 3rd grade and 3 teachers to teach them), should raise alarms to the taxpayers of Iowa. If other schools have to merge or even close then its time to take a HARD AND CLOSE look and how valuable the school still really is. Tuition money and tax dollars can be better spent on the campus of UNI rather than pouring it into a now bottomless pit.
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Cut Spending	Cut costs in half and "go green" by eliminating front license plates.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Human Services	Cut Spending	As a resident of the IOWA VETS HOME, we could get along fine with one half of the staff in the recreation dept, also the social workers dept. They are usually gone one day of the week anyhow. Also the I.T. dept. as they spend at least half of their days walking in circles around the grounds.
N/A	Cut Spending	As City Administrator of Center Point, Iowa I have found that going to a 4 day work week can save money. The State would save money on heating, cleaning and reduced overtime claims. See the State of Idaho for a comparison of potential cost savings.
Human Services	Cut Spending	The Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown is a wonderful place for the Vets to have, but there is a lot of cost savings that could and should be cut. Some time ago it was in the news about the physicians getting very large salaries, but I am not so sure everyone knows they only work on the average about three eight hour days at best at the Iowa Veterans Home (with the exception of the most senior Dr. and the PA's). The Nursing Supervisory group is quite well off as well averaging about three to four days a week and only putting in 6-8 hour shifts. These are some of the best paid Iowa employees we have. Then there is layer after layer of management. Example: Social Worker Director, Social Worker Supervisor, then all the social workers plus the "unit supervisor" Nursing Supervisor 2 and 1 that are responsible for the day to day business, when they are there that is. Each department has been cushioned with a director, associate directors (multiple in some cases), supervisors 1 and 2. All of these are not directly providing care to the residents there and continue to greedily take the full time pay and benefits with part time hours at best. This is hard for those that punch a clock continuously and are reprimanded for any overtime, and if you don't do your job completely plus others you still get reprimanded. Then you have grievances that can tie up 4-6 supervisors plus all the union reps employees etc and have in excess of thousands of dollars of hourly wages lost to finger pointing. Then the "Quality Improvement Department", in a state financial crisis one may presume that saving money would be more important than meeting after meeting discussing quality improvements to a facility when there is no financial means to carry through with continual quality improvement not to mention all the secretaries, employees, supervisors and yes directors as well to the layers of that department. It is shameful that the Vets have to work and pay their cable bills and get minimal attention due to upper layers of management abusing their hours and cheating government money, I don't believe even the criminals in the jails have to pay for their cable now do they? Put them on the road ways and out in the ditches bettering the state. They can eat sack lunches of peanut butter sandwiches and jelly they are the criminals after all. I am ashamed of how the 10% cuts are being done; management is "at will employees" maybe it is time to cut some of those positions. They are high paid salaries working at part time hours.
Education	Cut Spending	Cut the university's excessive experimentation labs and all the departments that have been created to pilot those. Do not cut school districts funding any more than it already has. We need a foundation for education to our youth. Cuts in education need to be made with all the plush university employees that are not professors, let's not even talk about coaches incomes from the state.
N/A	Cut Spending	Please see my suggestion below in response to Sen. Dotzler's update. These two programs need to be looked at closely for continued funding. If the State government is serious about finding ways to save money, these two organizations could be eliminated without causing any real reduction in state services required by the citizens of this great state. The existing school administration structure should be tasked to deal with the functions of AEAs and we really do not need an extra layer of government (INRCOG) between the Counties and State. If anything, we need to consolidate County governments in Iowa to bring or government structure into the 21st century.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		Bill, In the past, I suggested that you look at AEAs and INR COGs across Iowa as part of the Legislature's efforts to reduce Government spending in Iowa. I realize these two areas are political footballs that will create a lot of backlash from certain people/groups, but I believe, as a minimum, you could save some significant money by placing overall responsibility, that now rests with AEAs, back to the existing school structure, i.e. Waterloo schools would be responsible for the programs in their schools now managed by AEAs. I believe there is a lot of duplication in overhead associated with our regular school structure and AEAs. The same is true with INRCOG. Do we really need that extra layer of government between our Counties and the State? We didn't have it prior to 1979. It needs to be looked at closely from a cost/benefit view. WE need to focus on streamlining our State government and making it more efficient. Eliminating extra layers of government that are not really necessary would be a good start.
N/A	Cut Spending	I think that all State and local county level officials, i.e., Board of Supervisors, Mayor, Local City Boards, School Board Members, etc., need to take a serious pay cut. I am tired of our local governments pushing through these one cent sales taxes that they say will help to pay to repair streets and up grade parks, but we never seem to see that being done. Every time another sales tax is approved it is announced in the local media that our elected officials all got huge raises. What is wrong with this picture? If things would start being spent for what it was allocated for in the first place, we wouldn't be in this mess.
N/A	Cut Spending	Stop, or at least significantly decrease, the amount of mowing that is done on roadways.
N/A	Cut Spending	Align the classification of positions with wage and hour laws. Run more departments like IDED where the majority of employees are qualified as "professional" and exempt from being paid overtime. Many state employees in other departments hold positions that would almost certainly be considered exempt in the private sector.
N/A	Cut Spending	I feel if you are going to make it mandatory for all AFSCME employees and supervisors to take a minimum of 5 days furlough, then you should shut down the state government between Christmas and New Years. It will not only save on staffing costs, but overhead costs as well. There is not a lot of business during that time period any way, due to vacations.
N/A	Cut Spending	Are the legislatures taking pay cuts or furloughs? How about teachers? They are all paid by tax payers and should get the same treatment. Cut food stamps and wealth and hawki programs by 10%. If some have to take the pay, all should have too.
Education	Cut Spending	Combine the state historical library in Iowa City with the special collections at the University of Iowa Libraries.
N/A	Cut Spending	Interesting to see that Miss Iowa gets a job when there is a hiring freeze. I guess it's who you know. Everyone else is being asked to take days off. EBT benefits should be cut by 10% too. And they shouldn't be able to buy pop, chips, candy, cakes and junk food with them.
N/A	Cut Spending	Let's cut the pay of State Senators and Representatives by 20%.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Cut Spending	I am writing in hopes that possibly one legislative member reads the following. Iowa Nurses are paid at the very bottom of the nation's wage scale. Medicare reimbursement is also the lowest in the nation. Yet the "trickle down effect economics" is steeped in If the wealthy don't get their glutton profits then they don't spend venture capital in new or existing business ventures. How much tax revenue are you collecting from these individuals? Likely they are getting fat refunds and those employed bear the brunt of the cost. Stop "outsourcing", anything and everything to squeeze out profit to make the next quarter look good. Stop immigrating, the carrying capacity of our economy has shown it is beyond max capacity unless you want to ride the welfare wagon. Bigger is not better, kick some companies in the rear and use anti-trust laws. The financial district has dealt us a deceptive blow, "acquisitions and mergers". If that doesn't work, use a little creative accounting. Let's have some public accountability out of everyone not just the "faded memory of what was the MIDDLE CLASS". They were the money tree in your back yard!!!
N/A	Cut Spending - Schools	Ask Iowa's school districts to eliminate their budgets for school-sponsored extra-curricular athletics, specifically football. This would save the expense of hiring coaches and paying for travel to away games. If parents find athletics are a valuable experience for their students, ask them to set up after school clubs similar to the European model for their students to participate in.
N/A	Cut Spending - Schools	Reduce the number of k-12 schools. It is insane to pour resources into areas that have less than 200 students. 371 school districts for an entire state population of fewer than 3 million seem real excessive. Stop paying all these superintendents and middle managers to manage ways to get more government state and property tax funding. 60% of our taxes go to many of these inept programs
N/A	Cut Spending and Increase Fees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Furloughs and early retirements before layoffs (7 hour days keep benefits same) 2. Reduce DAS/DNR/DOT Fleet Vehicles by 50% 3. Assigned parking in ramp \$5-\$10 per month 4. Conference calls are less expensive than travel
N/A	Cut Spending - Privatization	<p>The work of government taking and spending your money is endless, and state leaders continue to nibble around the edges. Governor Culver has taken a one-size fits all approach to correcting the state budget instead of looking for ways to make Iowa a better run state.</p> <p>At a time when our great state's fiscal house is in disarray, both cost-savings and more efficient operations are excellent reasons for state leaders to look to changing the way Iowa government does business.</p> <p>It is long overdue for lawmakers to seriously consider privatization within the Iowa Department of Corrections. Today, there are over 9,000 inmates in Iowa prisons, and the average annual cost per prisoner is approximately \$30,000. Iowa taxpayers spend over \$265 million on state prisons, and the average cost per prisoner increases each year.</p> <p>Due to the governor's across-the-board budget cut, the Iowa Department of Corrections is slated to cut more than 500 of our prison workers, putting our public safety at risk. Instead of jeopardizing the security of our communities, Governor Culver needs to look at the savings privatization could bring to the Iowa prison system.</p> <p>Currently, many states contract with private, for-profit businesses to run prison facilities as well as other prison operations.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>States have privatized some prison functions for various reasons such as cost saving measures and operation efficiencies. As recently as last month Arizona lawmakers, who are also facing a budget crisis, publicly discussed a measure to shift their correctional system to private control. The Arizona proposal could save their state more than \$100 million in the corrections budget, just for the operation of one or more of Arizona's prison complexes.</p> <p>The Rio Grande Foundation reports the estimated cost savings with only 45 percent of prisoners in private custody to be \$9,660 per-prisoner. This would translate into a savings of over \$39 million a year for Iowans.</p> <p>My recommendation to state leaders is sell Iowa prisons to the private-sector! Now is the time to rethink the way we do government. Privatizing our state prison system offers many benefits. An increased legal accountability for privately-run institutions will make our communities safer. Going from a public-run to privately-run facility will also eliminate the built-in structural inefficiency of government. Iowa taxpayers would save tens of millions of dollars from the sale and operation of private prisons. The current budget situation requires lawmakers to make real changes to state government, and selling the state prison system is part of the solution to moving Iowa forward.</p> <p>Without substantial change to the operation of state government, Iowa will continue to experience sudden, sharp economic downturns. State leaders should focus on making decisions which will allow Iowa to move forward out of the fiscal crisis, and protect Iowa's future. Iowa needs strong and innovative leadership during this trying time, not short-sighted across the board cuts.</p> <p>Right now our state is at a crossroads. Do we operate government the same broken way, or do we make sweeping changes, for a better Iowa? It is time Governor Culver and Iowa Legislators transform Iowa government.</p>
Multiple Subcommittees	Fees	<p>Review fees for all inspection programs operated by state agencies and consider raising such fees in all cases where the current fees do not cover the total direct costs of the inspection activity. There may be some such activities where there are good business reasons for not recovering costs, but, in the absence of such reasons, all direct costs should be recovered. Consideration should also be given to raising fees to levels which would recover at least a portion of indirect costs.</p>
N/A	Fees	<p>'Smoking in bars should be licensed, like alcohol. Bar owners then get the choice as to allow it, the state gets licensing fees, and the public gets options as to places to patronize. This could be handled with little new infrastructure, unlike the ridiculous ban, and the state would make money for the budget on both tobacco taxes and license fees to help prevent deeper cuts in essential programs.</p>
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Fees	<p>Start charging registration fees for bicyclists to pay for bike trails and etc....some bikes cost more than cars.</p>
Natural Resources	Fees	<p>'Let's revisit options on state park user fees. Wisconsin charges \$25 per year resident and \$35 non-resident. Even if we don't impose fees on our residents, at least charge non-residents what their home state charges us. HOW CAN THEY COMPLAIN? Some states even charge more. In the computer age this should not be that difficult.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Ways and Means	Fees	Create more income and another source by adding an out of state concealed weapons permit system like Utah or Florida, those states are both raking in HUGE profits from their licensing system.
Justice System	Fees	This is in reference to collecting unpaid court costs. I work in the mortgage industry and there are times that we run across unpaid court costs that our clients knew nothing about. One customer goes directly to the clerk's office to pay his child support but no one ever mentioned the unpaid costs. So why are these never billed? Seems like there might be quite a bit of revenue if those were ever billed or collected.
Ways and Means	Fees	Charge all bicycle owners license fees on bikes based upon the value of the bike and charge an extra tax on riding apparel and equipment to pay for bike trails. A \$10/yr fee for basic (kid's bikes) up to \$200/yr for high cost touring bikes. Cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, ATV's, hunters, fishermen, campers etc all pay fees to participate in their activity, why not bicyclists?
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Fees	Charge all bicycle owners license fees on bikes based upon the value of the bike and charge an extra tax on riding apparel and equipment to pay for bike trails. A \$10/yr fee for basic (kid's bikes) up to \$200/yr for high cost touring bikes. Cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, ATV's, hunters, fishermen, campers etc all pay fees to participate in their activity, why not bicyclists?
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Fees	Increase deer hunting in the state. License hunters for a certain number of animals and they can purchase additional licenses for more animals.
N/A	Fees	Make ALL inmates of our correctional system pay-up for their housing and meals when they leave the system and quit giving them a free ride (garnish their taxes if we have to). Everyone else has to pay their way why not them!!! This would help most of the poor people you are laying off keep their jobs.
Ways and Means	Fees	I believe that this County Attorney payment plan is a waste of time and state money. The payment plan allows a cut of the defendant's fine and surcharge to go to the COUNTY Attorney instead of the STATE where it used to go. This is money - thousands up to millions eventually - that the state used to get and use to their needs. Now the state only gets a cut of it while the STATE employees are doing most of the work to get these payment plans up and running. If you eliminate the County Attorney payment plans then my office would have more time for what we were hired to do - STATE work! Then maybe my office could catch up on what they are behind in and layoff a person here or there to make the budget equal out!
Ways and Means	Fees	Either quit building bike paths, or require bicyclist to stay off of Federal and State Highways, they definitely become a danger to drivers and cannot seem to ride on the EDGE of the road. Or at least charge them a Highway Use Tax if they use the road.
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Fees	Charge farm vehicles with Road Use tax they use the hwy as much as commercial vehicles and when they are subsidized they want to be treated as a business, why not pay as a business

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Fees	We need to quit spending the money on bike trails because it seems everyone who rides a bike rides on the highway anyway. I think we need to have a registration for all bikes. Because lets face it, who ever owns a bike is riding it on one street or another. Whether it is in town or out of town. If everyone paid a small fee to register their bike yearly, this would help the cities and counties pay for some of the costs that goes into maintenance of roads and streets.
Ways and Means	Fees and Taxes	Put a stop to making more bicycle paths and make them pay a license fee on each bicycle that runs on our roads. They don't pay a road tax but I do. My husband says repeal the smoking tax and people may go back out and eat and drink, thereby increasing taxes. (We are not smokers)
Ways and Means	Fees and Taxes	Annual vehicle safety inspection program. There are far too many vehicles on our roadways that are missing critical safety components, have non functional lights, are rusted through, and that does not include hidden dangers such as faulty braking systems or worn steering/suspension assemblies. If the program were designed efficiently the state may even make some revenue while protecting its citizens at the same time. Private business like our local garages would benefit as well because they would be performing the annual inspections for the state. The state went ahead and taxed tobacco, what about junk food? Does junk food not harm people too? Are there not proven health risks for eating junk food? One man's cigarette is another man's can of soda, greasy burger or bag of pork rinds.
Admin & Regulation	Increase Planning	Having well-developed and thorough strategic plans is a key to effectively identifying and implementing measures needed to balance the state budget in the sort of fiscal situation we currently face. The State of Iowa has a well-developed framework for strategic planning across the Executive Branch and for related planning processes in the Accountable Government Act (Iowa Code Chapter 8E) but this framework is not being fully utilized at the present time. Agency planning processes are inconsistent, while enterprise strategic planning currently falls far short of its potential as a vehicle for structuring the priorities of the Executive Branch in line with the Governor's vision. The Department of Management should refocus attention on these planning processes, enlist expertise from other agencies which excel at various aspects of planning, and build Executive Branch capacity in strategic planning and performance planning and measurement
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Increase Revenue	I would suggest the DNR open up public state parks for logging. I have personally seen the DNR clear cut in the parks, but leave the logs lay to rot. They should put it up for competitive bids to harvest selective trees this in turn would generate revenue.
Justice System	Judicial Reorganization	Eliminate the senior judge program. If it is saving that much money then we need to cut the number of full time judges we have. We don't need both. Why should senior judges have health insurance provided to them and their spouse? Eliminate the number of Magistrate judges we have. Have either Associate or District Court judges hear these cases. When a defendant requests a trial and then settles prior to the hearing make the defendant responsible for all costs associated with the jury. Don't have taxpayers picking up the tab. Cut back on court hours rather than firing people. Employees would still have a job and the court would still be saving money instead of having them on the unemployment line where there are no jobs. Furloughs or having the court not work 40 hours and early retirements before layoffs. The state should get the money for any transcripts that are purchased by attorneys and the public. (Not the court reporters).

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Local and County Reorganization	Consolidation of school districts. Here are some examples: Clearfield: 4 kindergarten students; Bennett: average class size 9-10 students for K-6; Keota: small class sizes, outdated equipment, trying to share to keep themselves open with poor resources. These districts (and probably many others) consume resources from the AEA and the State while providing poor education opportunities. Consolidation of county governments: People will drive 25 miles for a McDonald's or Wal-Mart. They can drive the same day and take care of legal items, then go to the shopping malls.
N/A	Local Government	Stop passing unfunded mandates to county and city governments while moving more of their tax dollars to state tax revenue. No problems are being fixed, just passed from the state to local officials who now have lost their tax revenue to deal with it!
N/A	Local Government	State Government needs to lead and work in collaboration with the 99 counties and countless municipal governments GET SERIOUS about how to deliver services in a modern era. Does it make sense to have 99 counties? Do all these counties need to deliver services that may be duplicated or better delivered by a "regional" governmental entity?
N/A	Local Governments Reorganization	Sharing resources w/o diminishing local control. You can keep 99 counties but you can centralize the administration of those counties through the use of electronic technology. That same applies to school districts. For example. The Marion and Linn Mar school districts should be served by one administration. Why do we have, at least, one network per school district when they could all be served from Des Moines thus reducing hardware and software expenses while preserving local control? Designing systems that centralize resources but provide local control will minimize the opposition to sharing. Financial crisis such as Iowa is facing provides opportunities that don't exist in good times. Take advantage of the situation.
Education	Local Schools	The state has been cowardly for over 20 years by refusing to take definitive action to close Iowa's smallest school districts. It has been very slow and painful death and as a result even more schools are adversely affected by declining enrollment. Get some guts and do the unpopular but necessary thing, start closing schools and creating county wide districts where it is feasible. Also, without closing districts, Supt. of small districts should be forced to serve as county superintendents.
N/A	Local Schools	I believe to help the government save money on schools. The government should mandate schools joining with other schools in their county that are too small and unable to operate independently anymore. With many schools joining in a county, they can look at the number of children in each class and area. Then go from there to decide which section would be going, i.e.: Elementary, Middle, High School could be all going to different towns within the county to maximize current school building conditions. Therefore, decreasing costs of multiple school sites open with few children in them.
N/A	Mandatory Retirement	I think someone should look at all the people who are eligible to retire and collect Medicare, 65+. Most of those people qualify for social security benefits too. The elderly are working too long and thus also causing the unemployment crisis. Maybe people who have worked at the University so many years and have reached the age of 65 should be forced to retire. I think this needs research. I see lots of people at the University of Iowa who won't retire but have adequate funds to do so. I don't think this would be age discrimination.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Mandatory Retirement	30 YEARS OF SERVICE AND OUT NO MATTER THE AGE
N/A	Mandatory Retirement	Instead of laying off the younger state employees who will be jobless and not spending any money because they don't have any to spend; lay off the state employees who are eligible for social security, IPERS and Medicare and they are still working, receiving high salaries. They should have a mandatory retirement for these individuals. This could save the jobs of the younger state employees, who need their jobs in order to stay in Iowa.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Pass a bill in the real estate section allowing transfer on death deeds like our surrounding states, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota and Wisconsin have.
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Miscellaneous	<p>There are a few methods within the DOT organization that would spare taxpayers a little change. One that comes to mind is the seemingly pointless Road Review program. It appears that there are employees and or crews covering the majority of highways in the state looking for areas lacking attention. This is good except for the fact that it seems that none of the budget items cover those problems or issued found by said studies, what is the data used for? There are maintenance crews in the areas hopefully everyday. Why are we basically wasting time and resources which equates to money, on a program with little or no merit? These crews claim expenses totaling quite a bit for what? Another pointless expenditure of money-Lunch expense reimbursements. Why are we paying for this? I will guess across the board we all will plan to eat sometime during the day, even on weekends, and holidays, why can't we claim those days to get paid to eat? It makes less than no sense to pay for a lunch for someone, unless they submit a claim for lodging, which could cause an inconvenience in making ones lunch and carrying it with them. Granted the receipt required should help but still seems pointless. How about wasting time when drawing up plans for a project that is intended for a contractor to perform the work and leave out key items like, disposal of by products like asphalt millings which work good for filling edge ruts, left over sign posts that are in good usable condition which are basically given to contractor to sell or reuse at a later date or job? What about "forgetting or overlooking" things like detour and signing plans-the "sounds like a good job for maintenance" is quite a burden. The department that is responsible for theses oversights is also taking a fair amount of the workforce from maintenance to use for the season, and add those losses to the already skeleton crews at the shops makes for much wasted efforts. Maybe a representative from maintenance should be on hand to aide in the formulation of these plans or situations that seem to always have the slack picked up by them? What about inspector and the quality of the product? How does it come to be that if a project is completed to less than standards do we simply pay a little less for it. If you bought a product that didn't do what it was supposed to do it is returned for refund. Maintenance will continue to be responsible for the poor quality for many years far surpassing the savings that partial payment tried to save. Let's make sure the inspectors are held liable for allowing substandard products. The biggest detriment to the organization shows its ugly face at every possible place. It is full of people that don't give a care about anything at all except the paycheck. They actively talk about being wasteful and show it by their day to day attitude and actions. They are protected as "valuable" employees by a certain booklet that gets renewed every two years. They are not in fear of loosing their jobs and management is tied so tight they cannot do a thing about it. Why is it that this sort of mentality is promoted? Let's crack down on this and I am willing to bet that in time a new and accountable workforce will be more conscious of their actions and the outcomes they so far care nothing about. Thanks for opportunity voice concerns.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Switch away from proprietary software in every area possible and use open source software and open standards for documents. This will result in lower TCO in the long term and make government more accessible to lower income because they won't have to buy expensive proprietary software for their computer to interact with the government. It also provides for long term viability of documents and increased competition since the open standards will be available to everyone to incorporate in any software or conversion package they need.</p> <p>MSoftware (Microsoft) vs. OpenOffice.org (Sun)</p> <p>Windows (Microsoft) vs. GNU/Linux (Novell, Canonical, Redhat)</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Have you thought about tort reform? It saved the state of Texas 30% on their workman's comp and it save California 40%.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>In very broad terms, when money is spent, there should be an obvious return on that money. Way too much federal and state money is spent with out some time of tangible return. Way too many subsidy programs and give away programs. Most seem to be sacred cows that law makers are afraid to mention in the same sentence with cut backs. Money and food can not continue to be given away just because someone needs it. That is not good economics.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Allow state government to discipline and even discharge employees when they abuse sick leave. The overtime for state government, if the public knew, they would be appalled on how their tax dollars are being spent. This type of behavior is not allowed in private sector, why allow it in state government?</p> <p>Run state government like you owned the business.</p> <p>Currently the state is matching deferred comp for state employees up to \$75.00 per month; eliminate this until the finances of state government are better.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Look for efficiencies on operating costs between departments that could be shared and reduced. For example, there are various state and local agencies located in the same buildings and using completely separate telephone systems, internet connections, etc... That could be consolidated to save money.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Enforce the codes. Specifically 904.808. This will save the taxpayers millions of dollars per year, by enforcing the standardization of furniture items throughout government. At the same time it will allow the department of corrections to effectively implement the mandatory 40 hour work week of offenders. The statistics prove that offenders who learn skills while in prison do not return to prison. A national study reported after 3 years showed that inmates who worked at IPI had a recidivism rate of 4.9% verses the department of over 30%. Work and refined skills are the only thing that will ultimately set an offender free. It is the obligation of the legislature to enforce the codes that you write. Presently and over the past 7 years the code has been largely ignored.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>I believe that many of the departments need watch dogs to monitor and evaluate the progression. For instance I have seen transportation busses sitting idling for as much as 20 minutes, with no one but the driver in them. I questioned one of them once as a tax payer I did not see the need and his response was it takes time to cool down or heat up. I have seen first hand at many of the institutions unnecessary things happening, that over time would save money</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	I know we are all concerned about state budget cuts and what we can do to cut back on expenses and increase state revenue, and though I am sure there are many great ideals that tax payers have suggested I think it is vitally important that we do not cut costs to institutional programs for offenders (inmates). I work at the Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility which is currently the only institution that has a sex offender treatment program for convicted sex offenders. I realize that many people think that these offenders are not entitled to any form of treatment when there are so many good people without jobs, but we have to realize the risk we are creating to our communities when we allow sex offenders to return to the very same communities we are raising our families in without proper treatment. Talk about a state deficit! What price are we willing to pay at the risk of the youngest victims? What will we say to them, "sorry but it was a budget crutch"? Years have been spent establishing the treatment programs, endless state money on training the staff- we have to realize the long term impact, and damage that can occur if we start reducing staff and taking away from the programs that assist in securing our children's safety.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Set up a committee of non-government and government employees to evaluate the current budget for wasteful spending before doing an across the board cut. It is critical to have non-government people and government people working together to properly evaluate everything.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Iowa needs a law to cap credit card interest rates and get rid of universal default. We are a Nation drowning in debt and credit card companies are keeping consumers in debt due to exorbitant interest rates, over limit fees and late fees. The credit card companies are banking on the fact that if you need to borrow money you cant pay off the full balance right away so they make money the longer it takes for the balance to be paid off. I understand that they need to make money but using extremely high rates so it will take consumers years to pay off the balance due should not be allowed. You can't find ways to boost the economy or get people to spend more money without acknowledging the fact that everyone is more worried about paying of debts and loans than buying new stuff. If you Cap interest rates on credit cards, loans and mortgages so people can afford to live then people will spend more money.
N/A	Miscellaneous	How about ensuring that school districts set their calendars for the full 180 days that a student is to attend school? If you look at the school calendar for my local school (which is based on the Des Moines school calendar), students are only in class for 176 of the required 180 days. This count includes the days for early dismissals for teacher in-services
N/A	Miscellaneous	I would like to know if the state is offering early retirement for any one. That's what they should do so some of the younger employees can try to make a career. I thought the Gov. Culver wants to try to keep young people in Iowa but as all of you know the young people will be the first to get the axe as they don't have as much seniority.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Iowa Code 904.808 should be enforced. We should make it a priority to put our offenders to work through Iowa Prison Industries and recycle our money within the state.
N/A	Miscellaneous	It's no secret that government has ballooned over the last few decades. I'd like to suggest that someone in power get a list of all the state jobs from 25 years ago and compare it to a list from today. Then take a hard look at all the "new" positions and ask- which of these jobs can we do without, which are not necessary? Remember, we're broke and we've got to cut any frivolous spending

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	Is it true what I hear that many poor folk are coming from Illinois to Iowa just for our food and housing assistance programs? The rumor has it that these people run out of Illinois funds then just come to Iowa and start a new program here... Rumor also has it that the landlord on Wilson and Wiley Road SW, in Cedar Rapids runs newspaper and internet ads in Illinois to get poor folk to Cedar Rapids for his subsidized housing rentals. Stop these programs if they are true!
N/A	Miscellaneous	I for one would like to see less state cars at the local casinos. Every time I go down to the Riverside Casino and gulf resort I see at least four to five official state cars there:? I am sure that the time of night that I see them there they are not on official business. Well maybe but I do not think so. Maybe you could post a phone number for all of us to report their behavior to?
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Renew the effort started in spring, 2008 to upgrade workforce planning by state agencies. The initiative under the joint purview of the Departments of Administrative Services and Management had tremendously upgraded the capacity for rigorous workforce planning. However, this effort was allowed to languish before the first set of plans was submitted in July, 2009. Workforce planning is particularly important in the current fiscal situation, not less so. The Department of Management should refocus on this effort and work with the Department of Administrative Services to develop the skills in each agency to identify and plan for replacement of critical knowledge and skills as employees with these skills depart, particularly with agencies having limited ability to replace departing employees.</p> <p>Effective management of an enterprise planning process such as this requires active involvement of the Department of Management; it will not be as effective if administered solely by the Department of Administrative Services.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	Stop Paying for Illegal Immigrants going to public School. If they can NOT prove they are Legal residents of US, They can NOT get Children in School. This could save almost 1 BILLION a Year in IOWA
N/A	Miscellaneous	There needs to be a fundamental change in our government system. There are too many upper and middle management and not enough field employees. Get these "decision makers" out of the offices to do some work. Invasive species are taking over our natural areas, class rooms have too many students in them and the laws already on the books don't have enough officials to enforce them. The pyramids upside down. Nobody will want to do anything with this because most of us fall into one of these upper or middle management positions.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Please stop wasting our valuable resources by watering the pavement and islands in the streets. Trees and grasses in the medians obstruct view of turning traffic, are a waste of taxpayer money and once trees become a certain size, they are cut down. California has no such "beautification" project as they cannot 1) afford such extravagant use of water, 2) do not have the money to pay for the water, or 3) afford the upkeep of plants/vegetation in the medians.
Justice System	Miscellaneous	Enforce Iowa Code 904.808 which puts offenders to work. This not only teaches them good work ethics but they also pay child support, restitution etc out of the wages they are paid, making them less dependent on tax payers. Why are we taking tax payers money and purchasing foreign products?
N/A	Miscellaneous	The abuse of sick leave by state employees is unbelievable, make them work or fire them. FMLA is being abused by state employees, especially in the correctional institutions, that is not what FMLA was created for.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	My response is this. Lawmakers need to look at changing the domestic laws as well. There are court cases that give custody to a parent that shouldn't have custody. Judges are too biased on the actual evidence and make up their minds based on their own personal feelings. I promise myself that this time when going to the polls to vote I will actually know which candidate feels which way about this issue. This is a big picture issue and needs to be looked at NOW. Thanks!!
N/A	Miscellaneous	The highest times of Title 19 patients to use the ER is 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is the time when all talk shows are over and none of the movies have begun. The parents don't work and bring in all their kids saying "you might as well register them all" for cold/flu/bronchitis/etc. These are not "emergency" visits and greatly tax the employees working the ER during rush hour traffic when a significantly higher number of actual traumas come in. If parents were charged \$10 per person per ER visit with conditions they will be charged \$xxx for non-emergent visits, this would encourage them to go to a walk-in clinic or see their regular family physician during normal business hours instead of taxing the ER/hospitals at high rates which are then passed on to the taxpayers. Just a thought.
N/A	Miscellaneous	It is essential that decisions are not made that would jeopardize federal funding. Some cuts in state dollars could lead to further cuts from the federal government. Legislators need to look into each cut and see how it affects Iowans at risk of being institutionalized without services that will cost much more in the long run.
N/A	Miscellaneous	End the smoking ban in bars waste too much time and money enforcing. And it decreases bar revenue thus lower state revenue. Just a waste of tax payer dollars
N/A	Miscellaneous	De-regulate everything and get your hands out of stuff. Look at what people do to make ends meet living paycheck to paycheck. Normal people have to live on a moderate budget and there is no reason the government can't do the same. Why don't you try cutting taxes and let it trickle down?
N/A	Miscellaneous	Stop paying huge amounts for construction projects that the public doesn't use like the river project in Waterloo, and setup a group to price check products that are billed to the government.
N/A	Miscellaneous	If the budget is to be cut straight across the board, I would like to see some rule that makes universities not pass the deficit onto the students by raising their tuition. Colleges seem to make up the cut in budget by passing it on.
Education	Miscellaneous	The Regents Universities and community colleges should opt for furloughs rather than layoffs. Furloughs should consist of consecutive days for all faculty/staff/administrators and be timed to coincide with the peak of the H1N1 season, thereby cutting costs, preventing layoffs, and controlling the spread of the flu among both students and employees.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Easy, just read and implement everything on www.aniowaworthfightingfor.com
N/A	Miscellaneous	Reduce the cost of health care costs to employees with the family plan. Employer pays for a single plan and pays the same dollar amount toward the family plans for married or singles with families. Example: John and Jim Doe work for the state with the same job classification and requirements. John is single and has no family. Jim is single but has two children on a family plan. The state is currently paying the same dollars out to both employees for health care. John and Jim make \$30,000 per year. John's health care cost is \$500 per month; Jim's health care cost is \$1,000 per month. Jim is getting an extra \$6,000 in benefits than John due to the health care plans. Taxpayers are not

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		responsible for the children Jim has. Jim should be footing the bill for the health care family plan above what the state is paying for John. Private industry does not pick up the tab for the family health plans. Why is the State of Iowa? There is always talk about equality. Where is it? If early retirement is offered, the single portion of the health should be the only cost bore by the state for the employee retiring. No hire backs including contract employees.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Utilize jail inmates for county labor projects, i.e.; public building mowing, landscaping, snow removal etc. In Illinois I notice chain gangs doing cement work on city sidewalks, trash clean-up on roadways, tree trimming and much more. Not so in Iowa. The guards that watch them in the jail house can be just as apt in the field. This would save cities and counties considerable funds. I believe sentencing usually includes the phrase "hard labor". Any labor would be a welcome site!
N/A	Miscellaneous	Why Don't You Stop And Think About How Much Money You Are Losing From Sale Of Cigarettes+ Small Bars & Coffee Shops You Are Putting Out Of Business Because Of No Smoking, (You Should Have Left That Up To Owners).
N/A	Miscellaneous	I can't tell you how many times I see empty buses. Cut down on the running empty buses. Perhaps a call ahead plan, running routes for those with bus passes.
N/A	Miscellaneous	No plate (tag) renewal unless you can provide proof of insurance for the past year. This will cut down on insurance costs and no tag renewal unless you can show your child support is paid for the past year.
N/A	Miscellaneous	A one time shot at early retirement for person like me, 51 yrs old with 30 yrs of service. As a CSI I'm top out, the saving could be \$8,000.00 + that's just one person. Through IPERS Deputy Sheriff's are allowed to retire at the age of 50 with 22 yrs of service.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Hope this is where the budget cut ideas are supposed to go. I think that those who receive food stamps could take a percentage of the cut. I know from experience that the food stamps that are given are over generous. I haven't received assistance for more then 13 years now. It's over generous. That's most likely why I get approached from time to time with either someone selling meat or offering to buy my food for \$\$\$. I eat hamburger and those on assistance eat steak. Guess a true way to find out would be to track what's bought on their cards.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Quit hiring consultants to do the job that you have hired Managers for, if your Managers can't do their job then its time to get rid of them.
N/A	Miscellaneous	I think that laying off our state employees is the WRONG answer. I have a DHS Income Maintenance worker and if they get laid off I will have to wait forever for help as I live in a smaller county of Union. Do furlough days, take all state employees, just giving each one furlough day will save over \$100,000, and that is just one day, make them all take one a month, it will keep their job but save tons!
N/A	Miscellaneous	Lets make "hard time", hard time. Pull the plug on prison cable TV. Prisoners need more time in isolation from the other inmates. This reduces their education as to furthering it of the crimes they commit or move on too. Being that there will have to be lay offs of personal in the prisons, this will keep things safe and under control also allowing the inmates to look a bit deeper into their crimes and actually give a thought or two to changing their ways...

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	NO lower jobs should be cut, these are the people working so hard for THEIR STATE, and they do not deserve to be laid off, take furloughs or something, no need for lower layoffs, if anything higher management who make more and sometimes do less can be moved around. Especially smaller counties cannot afford to function with layoffs.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Trim the partisan staffs in the House and Senate.
Human Services	Miscellaneous	I am a Child Protection Worker employed by the Department of Human Services. We are overloaded with work expectations now, and can only imagine what will happen when 10% of the field staff is gone. Can't central office be tapped for reductions in staff? It is always field staff that is let go and seems that more and more job duties are shifted to field staff in tough times. Almost feels like they are piling on the work so we realize how darn lucky we are to have a job.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Excluding a long term debt like a house, a one time expense for most fiscally cautious people, otherwise we insure we have the money before we incur debt. We don't use credit cards unless we can pay them off in the same month. Why can't the state work for that type of budget management? Why can't the long term commitments be the exception not the rule? Then the budget office can say, you have (not expect) xx millions of dollars for the next fiscal year. How much will you save and how much will you invest in the state? In other words, let's quit leveraging our state services because debt always comes due.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Iowa needs to explore a law that Missouri has in effect, when the unemployment rate reaches a certain percentage, construction projects would be mandated to be awarded to Iowa based companies rather than a company from another state that is going to bring in workers. This would bring in more payments to the Iowa Workforce Development, keep money in Iowa and allow our citizens that do construction to have the money needed to spend here, thus stimulate the economy. Currently we are getting stimulus money from the Federal Government which is being paid to workers from other States and going back to the other states.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Do not lay off State Troopers. There is already a shortage of them in the state and laying them off would be a mistake, and hurt the well-being of this state.
N/A	Miscellaneous	I have been very concerned about amount of governmental waste. For some grants that are well funded, agencies spend remaining grant funds on unnecessary things so the money doesn't go back to the State. Agencies receiving grant funds should receive an incentive payment for coming in under budget. That would encourage programs that have adequate funding to be cost effective and efficient in their program operations.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Find a way to speed up court hearings, the longer it takes to have hearing for some one in jail is the longer they sit in jail when 50% of the time they get off with probation.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Look at all the unpaid tickets anything over a year old needs addressed if nothing else community service, IE clean parks, clean road ways, the options are wide open make them wear bright yellow vests so others can see what happens when you don't pay fines as well as all work done is at a minimum wage scale until fines are paid
N/A	Miscellaneous	When I worked for a utility company I had visited an electrical company called T3 who had replaced their light switches with sensors that could sense when someone was in the room and would turn the lights on. If so much time passed without motion the lights would turn off. Maybe you could use that in restrooms or possibly storage rooms?

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	Look around the room at all of your meetings on reorganization. Any state representative in the room that is not speaking to the committee should have his/her job reviewed for its necessity. Eliminate all legislative liaisons. There is no right for the government to address itself for redress of grievances. There is no guarantee of Free Speech for government entities. The person responsible for administering an agency's budget should be the only agency representative in the Capitol during the session. On matters of policy - send the director.
N/A	Miscellaneous	If you are going to cut all state workers why wouldn't this include cutting 10% of the politicians or 10% of their wages? Of course this should include the governor.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Any early retirement incentive for state employees must be agreed to very quickly, otherwise will not reduce layoffs. Layoffs will be well underway before the Legislature comes back into session in January.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Certain positions could be offered to primarily "work from Home", such as Social Worker 2, and then the need for office space would be reduced. Also offering part-time positions, for those that are interested. Could hire 2 part-time social workers to cover the same case load as 1 full-time worker, and the state would save money by not having to pay full benefits/insurance.
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Miscellaneous	If the DNR would stop buying farmland and timber land in southern Lucas and Monroe Counties it would put more tax money back instead of taking away tax. If they would stop buying all four wheel drive SUV and by Pickups for the DNR, it would save money
N/A	Miscellaneous	I believe all government employee should have to take a 2 to 3 percent cut in pay and also pay half of there own health insurance. Maybe then we would not have to lay people off that will not have any income. Most government wages are high enough that they still would be able to make ends meet.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Collect all the outstanding tickets & unpaid fines. Be aggressive. We have over \$525 million outstanding in this area alone.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Evaluate all departments for waste. Eliminate duplication. Put all services out for RFP bid. Eliminate the state fleet of vehicles to all but what is necessary. We do not need to provide state employees with vehicles. I don't get one in my job.
Justice System	Miscellaneous	If you ever view the Iowa courts on line site you can click on Financial and discover fines/courts costs etc. It is appalling to me how many fines are not paid. I think if there were personnel assigned to better follow up on the offenders the court funds would increase greatly. I happen to know of several offenders and looked them up. The total owed by just 2 added together is more than \$10,000.00. Do a better job of collecting. If the system would prosecute these people in a timelier manner (before the witnesses forget the facts) and they were put on a strict payment plan or be incarcerated for none payment I believe the system would be money ahead of the game. The youth of today laughs at the system because all they get is a little slap on the wrist and they really suffer no consequences.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	You need to give serious consideration to an early retirement option so the younger people can get off the unemployment roles and start working. The cost of health care is stopping many older people from retirement. If it is economically sound to offer early retirement with health benefits fully or partially funded it could reduce annual salary expense. The starting salary for a new CO in corrections is \$34,278.00 and you top out at \$50,793.00. That is a \$16,515.00 savings per year not to mention the employer share of Taxes. If the state premium is in the ballpark of \$350.00 per month for insurance and they opt to pay that it would still give a savings of at least \$12,000.00 per employee. The comments about forcing retirement because they will make enough on SS are unfounded since everyone's circumstances are different. Some have dependents with expensive health issues so I would hope forced retirement would not be an option the state would pursue.
Justice System	Miscellaneous	Make offenders pay 50 cents for every prescription drug they take per month. I bet the pharmacy bills would drop by tens of thousands of dollars. They get unnecessary meds because they don't have to pay anything for them. They get sleeping pills, antidepressants and tranquilizers just to keep them subsidized for their drug habits on the streets. I don't begrudge anyone needed medications, but the DOC provides pharmacology on subjective, not objective symptoms.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Number one- Make sure that anyone receiving welfare benefits passes a drug screening prior to picking up their check every month. Anyone that is on welfare is given 2 years max; no matter how many children are born to them they have a maximum allotment. Two years is enough for anyone to get themselves back on their feet. No one should continuously have more children and get paid to do nothing. A two year max policy will make the life timers think twice if they decide they want more children; let them be responsible for them, not the tax payer. No one that is illegal/non-citizen should EVER receive tax payer monies. Make sure that drug addiction or alcoholism is not grounds for drawing disability. Maybe if they had to work to earn their money they wouldn't have so much time to drink and drug. Social responsibility means that we take care of those that take care of themselves, not those that feed off the labors of others. Any society that represses people by giving them money to not work creates upheaval and discord from everyone. It supports lines of inequality and promotes social barriers.
Transportation, Infrastructure and Transportation	Miscellaneous	Switch to one (rear) license plate. Same revenue, half the cost. Cars are designed for rear plates, but not always front. Many don't like to drill into new car and put on ugly bracket
N/A	Miscellaneous	First and far most important for the soldier that is having trouble no travel per diem etc. The state should not punish our states soldiers I am a retired soldier and the president was my boss so we did not get subjected to these cutbacks, I am ashamed to be a resident of this state if you take from our soldiers what did they take from this state, nothing just gave of themselves. There are a lot of other areas that could be hit. I do not see people breaking doors down to join the service these days well let's just make it a little worse and penalize people. I think everyone could learn to pinch a little we would eventually work out of it. And as far as veteran's rights to a tax break unless you have combat experience or have served your country DONT WORRY ABOUT IT, IT is something veterans are entitled to.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Hire an outside agency to evaluate the many layers of the judicial department. Many of those positions can be combined to be more efficient or eliminated. Eliminate those positions that deal with statistics that put more burden on the clerk of courts offices to justify their jobs.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	The state unemployment system allows for a lot of questionable benefit collection. I've called on businesses in NW IA for 45 years. Many seasonally employers simply agree with employees to work for them during busy season and then collect unemployment when busy season is over. It seems way too easy to collect unemployment benefits in IA.
N/A	Miscellaneous	We are about ready to begin low income heating assistance to the elderly and disabled and low income people in our State. There should be some means of reducing payments to those people who are not elderly or disabled, yet who have received full funding for the past 2 years. We are not teaching Iowans anything if we continue tax-paid hand-outs. If someone can afford their energy bill in the summer, then they can afford to pay at least something in the winter rather than gaining a totally free ride for 5 months during the winter.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Require all state agencies and the universities (other than child support) to use the state's central collection unit instead of private collection companies.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Put the entire state employee staff on 9 days of work every two weeks. This way the wages remain the same but everyone shares in the budget crunch without burdening the hardship on a few. Plus those laid off will claim unemployment compensation which will burden the fund with about 80% of the wage reduction.
N/A	Miscellaneous	The state legislature could take a ten percent cut in their pay. That would be consistent with the ten percent across the board cuts proposed by the governor.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Any one getting (or asking for) government aid needs to be able to qualify, in a similar fashion as one who has to qualify to work for the government. Drug testing, criminal records and so on.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Why does a person who has to meet the working requirement for the MEPD program through Medicaid only have to wash windows, or walk a dog? How are we supporting them to become self-sufficient by them making \$5 a month for folding towels for a neighbor, just so they can stay on Medicaid? We're just enabling people. There are many able bodied persons with disability who if not easily provided insurance would seek to become independent by seeking a real job that pays back the cost of Medicaid by paying taxes!
N/A	Miscellaneous	Turn off the water sprinklers on MLK - they were on last night, WHILE it was raining.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Make the Capitol police "walk" a beat. The Capitol Complex is not that big. Yet, count the parking places for patrol cars outside the Lucas Bldg. They get in their cars to patrol the Lucas Bldg. parking lot for parking violators.
N/A	Miscellaneous	At our state universities, actual professors should teach their own classes. Get rid of the teaching associates (many of whom have a foreign accent and are difficult to understand plus they are paid) Parents pay for a professor, not a substitute teacher.
N/A	Miscellaneous	All options should be on the table, INCLUDING FURLOUGHS, most state employees would be more than happy to work 35 hours per week for 6 months to a year than have people laid off, try at least offering that option to people, don't just negate it. Ask the employees.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	Although Medicare is a federal government program, we as Iowa taxpayers support it. A huge amount of Medicare money is wasted by providing Hospice services in nursing homes. Nursing home staff still provides 99.9 percent of the care during the hospice stay. Title XIX (Medicaid) is a huge source of nursing home income which pays the wages for staffing. A private pay resident still pays for his/her room (Title XIX only pays a small client participation amount). Hospice only pays for the medications treating the disease that is killing the resident, not ALL medications. The private pay resident or Title XIX pays for all other medication. On average, a Hospice representative spends 2 - 3 hours per week with a patient but the Hospice organization receives payment for every day the resident is on hospice care, even if a hospice representative has not been to see the resident. Obviously Hospice is a money making organization, if it wasn't you wouldn't be seeing so many new hospice groups forming. Even some nursing home chains are getting in on the easy money.
N/A	Miscellaneous	DO NOT PUNISH OR TAKE FROM OUR MILITARY
N/A	Miscellaneous	Good government is not least cost government. Strive for efficiency, and delivery of necessary services. It is wrong to initially cut expenditure or cut taxes, then ask how to reduce government. Increasing tax revenue may be part of the final responsible resolution.
Human Services	Miscellaneous	Add load to managers in DHS not those working with clients, they already have too many to serve. A manager may have only 12 people to supervise, they could handle twice that.
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>I think it would be a good idea to review the Dept. of Banking, especially the need for state bank examiners. As a 20+ year veteran of the banking industry, I have witnessed significant change. Most of Iowa's banks now have national charters, and the federal examiners do a much more thorough job. Although these changes in charters (mostly due to mergers and acquisitions of small community banks) have resulted in a much lighter work load for the state examiners, they have not significantly reduced staff, instead they claim to save \$\$ by allowing examiners to "work from home". This is not a prudent practice for examining bank operations or loan files, its laziness.</p> <p>The state banking examiners office didn't contribute in any meaningful manner to help predict or avoid the banking crisis that precipitated the recession. It is time for the state to make some courageous strategic cuts.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why do we have a state climatologist? We already fund NOAA and other national weather sources. An ISU climatologist provides similar analyses while teaching classes. 2. Why does the DNR have an "energy analyst" who periodically poorly projects the price of gas next summer? Unless that person is purchasing fuel for the state at "low prices" what is the value? 3. Divide all state functions into: essential, (OK if we have sufficient funds), and not needed but feel good (all the blue ribbon, etc., boards and panels).
Education	Miscellaneous	Quit funding school lunch to families that are receiving food stamps. Why not send a sandwich to school out of the monies you have rec'd already? Also quit funding drivers Ed for low income, why not save for that right to drive? The rest of us have to budget for these items

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Education	Miscellaneous	Let's look at what the state paid for the preschool program. Why do the rest of us have to pay for others to send their preschool children to Free preschool? I paid over \$1000.00 that I had to budget for to send my child to preschool. And while we are looking at the school system lets look at the salaries we are paying out for teacher's who are at the retirement age that are taking day's off till retirement for paid days that they accrued through the years. Hurts our current student when they are gone and they have a sub for a large portion of their school year. Why do we give them so many days off when all the rest of us have to go to work? Including the summer, Christmas, spring break, etc...
Education	Miscellaneous	Here is an idea to help the school budgets and in turn help the state budget. The 60 High Schools with the lowest enrollment - should be closed. I realize this seems cold, but the time and money situation should be obvious that drastic change is needed. At a quick glance at the money: Figured at 100 students per high school & \$5,000/student state aid 100 x 60 = 6,000 students, 6,000 x \$5,000 = \$30,000,000, Benefits: 10% cut = \$3,000,000 savings, \$27,000,000 to add back to schools that absorb students. Yes, there are downsides, but it is time we made a common sense decision.
N/A	Miscellaneous	I would recommend that lighting in all public bathrooms be on motion sensors and or timers where appropriate.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Talk about expensive "brain drain". Train our public safety people at a 20-week long academy and then let them go so they can take that training out of State. Wouldn't furloughs and early retirements be more practical than so many permanent layoffs?
N/A	Miscellaneous	Put in a bid to get a FEDERAL PRISON located near FORT MADISON IOWA because it will add jobs and SE Iowans are prison friendly already.
Human Services	Miscellaneous	Do away with the reimbursement of cost for meals that clients use to travel to medical appointments. They are reimbursed for their mileage, which runs into \$1000's of dollars, but the \$100's of dollars that are reimbursed to them for their medical trips for meals could save the state thousand's of dollars. The state could save several thousand of dollars if they looked into the medical program of reimbursing clients for their medical trips, which includes mileage and meals.
Ways and Means	Miscellaneous	I think you should look and see how much money the state lost when you banned cigarettes in bars and raised the taxes on them so people go out of state to buy them. I'm sure this has cost several million dollars in sales not only cigarettes but alcohol sales in bars.
Justice System	Miscellaneous	I saw an article about possibly cutting the number of Iowa State Patrol Officers on the Roads due to state budget cuts. I was wondering if anyone has taken into consideration using Reserve Officers to serve the number of needed positions with the Iowa State Patrol. I am a Reserve Officer for Lisbon, IA and would we willing to volunteer to work as a State Trooper on a Reserve Status. Reserves make \$1.00 per year serving.
N/A	Miscellaneous	One thing I want to remind several people is even State Employees pay taxes! Why is it every time something goes wrong in the state budget it's the employee's fault? Like we set the wages and we make all the decisions? And why pick on us little guys? How about starting at the top and cut those wages because they aren't the ones doing the actual work we are! It looks like to me there are too many chiefs and not enough Indians in the state of Iowa!

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	Cut the number of state senators in 1/2. Iowa essentially has two representative branches and there just isn't the need for that many legislators. Just think of the money saved in salary, per diem, voting, etc.
Judicial Branch	Miscellaneous	Check out fringe benefits of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals -- retreats at Honey Creek Lodge, state vehicles, golf outings, heated underground parking, private fitness facilities, personal secretaries, assistants, law clerks, deputies and so on. They turn out approximately 1.5 rulings per month. Keep fully staffed while trying to operate the rest of the judicial system on a skeleton crew. Need to get accurate number of amount spent on staff to support this handful of judges.
Judicial Branch	Miscellaneous	Judicial Branch needs to quit spending money they don't have on studying the feasibility of replacing court reporters with digital audio recording. Much money, time and effort has been put into multiple overnight site visits as far away as Salt Lake City, Utah to further the agenda of Marsha Ternus to fix a system that isn't broke. Digital recording will NOT save money, and how much money has been wasted on this endeavor to date? Hard to understand why she wants to move to a substandard method to report court proceedings and add a bunch of court reporters to the unemployment line.
Judicial Branch	Miscellaneous	Sell the Judicial Branch Building (aka the Palace) to the highest bidder, imported marble and all. That will make up for this fiscal year's projected shortfall, next year's, and well into the future.
N/A	Miscellaneous	If you are going to pay teachers based on the degree they have you need to verify that they completed the work on their degree BEFORE giving them a pay increase. At least one works for the AEA in Waterloo she has not completed her thesis paper but has collected a pay increase for the last several years as if she has her masters. If we are concerned about the budget we need to make sure we are getting what we pay for. I may be mistaken but your Masters Degree has not been attained until your thesis paper has been completed and accepted. Are we or are we not paying additional funds to someone based on a degree not attained?
N/A	Miscellaneous	Eliminate all extra duty pay for staff. Ask all employees above \$100,000 to take a 10% decrease in pay and do a sliding scale for other state workers.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Yes on the random drug testing of those who receive assistance! Others in the working world have to take them to work and get paid. Why not the ones who are getting paid to sit around. I think the guy who offers to pay for my groceries at .50 on the dollar might have drinking or drug issues. Or the people that approach me at a bar to sell me steaks might have a drinking or drug issue.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Every one's job is important to them and their families, but certain jobs are much more important to the health, safety and over-all well-being of Iowa citizens. A special session should be called to go over the budget line by line; early retirements should be accelerated; and, employees should be offered the option of taking an 8-10% pay cut (furloughs). Public Safety, health care and education should be the last areas cut.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	We need to eliminate meals for state employees unless they are staying overnight. Since DAS made the new rules where employees are required to turn in receipts for meals, it has generated a new way to abuse the system. There are many state employees who simply boast about "that's fine, I won't turn in any meal receipts, I'll just put down another hour or so of overtime and get my meal back". Believe it or not, THIS IS HAPPENING AND UNLESS YOU CUT THE MEALS OUT FOR DAILY TRIPS, YOU WILL PAY AND YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO TRACK ALL THE ABUSE! In the end, we all pay the bill.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Allow DOT maintenance vehicles to use emergency turnarounds on the interstate system during regular maintenance. We currently have to use them only during emergencies. During our regular maintenance activities we are not allowed to use them to turn around in. It costs us a lot of time and fuel when we are required by policy to go to the next interchange to turn around. We have been asking this question for years and no one in management seems to get the picture. When are we going to wake up to good old common sense? Why would you be required to turn around during a blinding snow storm in the median and not be allowed to use that same turn around on a bright clear day when you can see for miles? WAKE UP FOLKS. This should be a decision as simple as buying a loaf of bread and yet we have leaders who still have the almighty POWER to say we will not change.
N/A	Miscellaneous	If it does come to layoffs, lets be sure to go outside the normal bounds of the "new book" we use to protect less than desirable workers. We seem to always allow things that are a detriment to the organization, even though we are left a clause to protect those difficult decisions. It is like we are afraid to stand up for what is right and move forward, so we settle for the less chance for there to be a discussion, grievance, etc. Let's go ahead and interview to keep our current positions, evaluate previous performance evaluations, and find out why each and every one of us wants to keep our job, what we have done to do our part, and what we will do from here forward, and then most importantly hold us all to those statements. There are many "slacked links" in the chain; it is high time we cut them out. Thanks again!
N/A	Miscellaneous	I think that you better look at the affect it will have on the economy of Iowa if you lay off all the workers you are talking about. How is this going to help more people on unemployment and possibly more going on state aid? So even less spending in Iowa because nobody will have money and possibly more foreclosures on homes. Cut all people making over 100,000 by ten percent and see how much that saves. Those people would still be making over 90,000 and that if far from poverty
N/A	Miscellaneous	A cost saving idea in corrections would be to implement a daily fee in state run institutions for offenders. Most offenders have an outside income source, and we are actually paying offenders that are incarcerated to do nothing. It's called Idle pay. Charging offenders works to help budget county correctional facilities. This plan could cut down on crime and recidivism also.
Education	Miscellaneous	Cut down on the number of community colleges. Their mission is far less complex than that of the Regents Institutions. There's no need them to have five times as many administrative structures. Historically, their governance has been problematic. Some boards are led by people with little, if any, academic experience. The result has been relatively small, yet expensive, colleges. Huge savings in Information Technology and curriculum management alone could justify creating a community college system with as many locations as there are campuses throughout the state.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	Create a centralized ILS (Integrated Library System) the use of which would be required of all Regents institutions and their various substitutions. Currently, the three schools operate, at great expense, their own ILS servers. The ILS industry includes several vendors that have ample scalability to serve far larger collections than are already owned by the Regents institutions. It's also true that the universities have the high speed Internet access that would make such a consortium quite practical. A prototype of such a system, the Cedar Valley Library Consortium, has been running on a single server for 13 years now with great success. The 10 members enjoy a high end system with far less capital cost and more sophisticated support than they could afford as individuals. There are no technical reasons for not consolidation and great financial reasons for doing so.
N/A	Miscellaneous	It's time for most, if not all, email servers (e.g., Microsoft Exchange, Linux POP/Imp, Novell GroupWise, etc.) to be replaced with cloud based systems such as Google Apps or Yahoo's Zebra. Cloud based email services are extremely scalable (even organizations with 15,000+ users thrive on such systems) and result in far more reliable and effect communication and document management services for the users. Businesses are moving to cloud based email quite rapidly; why not state and local governments? My libraries have been using this approach for years with great success.
N/A	Miscellaneous	There should be a special legislative session instead of one person (Gov. Culver) making across the board cuts. When the economy is down is NOT the time to cut Public safety. Turn down the heat/air conditioning in buildings, close non-essential offices a couple of days per month, offer benefit re-negotiations, merge departments and reduce travel expenses.
N/A	Miscellaneous	With government spending cuts, I'd like to see some of the top-state government officials cut their salaries to about \$50,000. I'd say that's a fair amount; a fair number of Iowa Citizens make about that much gross, yearly. When the Governor takes a salary cut of only 10%, but still has a gross income of over \$100,000, how does that make a difference? The house he lives in is FREE? Let's get back to basics!
Education	Miscellaneous	Encourage a review of the state's education program Every Child Reads. As an experienced classroom and reading teacher (27 years), I found it to have little effect in its claims to improve instruction and raise test scores. There are, with this program, substantial costs to the state and school districts in terms of overhead, copyrights, lost instructional time, paperwork, documentation, and substitute teacher pay. Also, the instructional strategies and techniques appear to be a rehash of what was considered 'new' in the 1970's. I find it interesting that the authors of Every Child Reads are a group of retired teachers working from Saint Simon's Island, an expensive resort area off the coast of Georgia!
N/A	Miscellaneous	There are too many "chiefs" on the Governor's staff and not enough competent "Indians." Likewise in all of the departments.
N/A	Miscellaneous	State Budget / Going Green -There are many large state office building that do not have the public walking in to conduct business all day long. Those employees could work 4 days instead of 5 allowing the building to be close for 3 days instead of 2. Closing buildings down for 3 days would save a lot of energy which would be a large cost saving. I would have the building closed on Mondays instead of Fridays as most people take off later in the week to do business instead of the starting of the week. As normal the public will grumble for awhile and get use to it. I believe it would be the same for state employees. State employees are to serve the citizens of Iowa and I believe saving energy would be a big service to the citizens of Iowa.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	Anyone receiving any type of welfare (call it what it is) should be required to report if they smoke, have cable or direct TV, more than one cell phone in the household. These are not necessities, \$5.00 for a pack of cigarettes would buy two gallons of milk, cable or direct TV service costs could buy groceries. No one NEEDS 50 channels, they may want 50 channels, but it's not a necessity. I'm tired of working for someone else's wants.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Please look at protected class retirement. Give the opportunity with 20 years or more of service to retire. This will allow younger staff to continue employment without layoff and let higher wage staff leave employment. This should reduce some of the budget shortfall.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Stop paying for state employee's meals.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Make it possible for all those that qualify for retirement can. Pay some of their insurance post-retirement, that's what stops a lot of people from retirement is their healthcare cost. Those that qualify for retirement need to retire to save the jobs of the younger workers who are still raising families.
N/A	Miscellaneous	REALLY cutting back on AEA! Just What DO these people do. They answer to no one and have TOTAL freedom to do what they please with their time!!!! This Program needs some BIG adjustments!! Or just do away with it and keep the special education per district! Consolidating Education leaders see funds allotted and spend whether they need to or NOT! Let's get down to basic business sense! SO MUCH WASTE! All government jobs pay high and get WONDERFUL benefits!!! The private sector cannot compete, so what's with that??
N/A	Miscellaneous	If all city, county, and state agencies were allowed to keep any leftover money they had at the end of the fiscal year, it would be spent more wisely, and in the end save the taxpayers. As it is, any left over money is spent, a lot of times foolishly, rather than give it back for fear of getting cut the next year.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Maybe not government per se, but there are large numbers being published about vacant but funded positions that are going to be abandoned in addition to the job reductions proposed. Some of these positions were left open because management had no regard for the workload left to the remaining personnel. Working a position that is manned 24 hours a day with 4 personnel means that already if only one other person needs any time off the other three are working every day until the employee returns. The situation lends itself to large amounts of time and a half overtime. I really hope that someone has looked at the real effect of losing these openings -- it may be cheaper to staff the open positions at regular pay rates than to make more "mandatory" overtime the state will have to pay for...
N/A	Miscellaneous	No layoffs, we are all in this together. All state, county and health workers would work a 4 day 9 hr day week (except upper management) Building would be setup for cost savings 3 day out of the week. School would run the same 4 days a week 9 hours per day. Busing and building utilities would be a savings. Working with less people is not the answer. Working with fewer hours would be.
N/A	Miscellaneous	At this time when you are cutting the budget to the point of layoffs and reduced funding to education, why is the state still giving out grants for bike trails, etc?

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	Work with County Government to streamline services. Combine city election with general elections to save costs and time. With state government cuts, that does have the trickle down effect to local governments.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Combined reporting!
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>I know from serving on utility boards, city councils, etc that budgeting is difficult. And because for some reason of history we budget on the expected income rather than received. I believe that we should be more conservative with the "expected income" figure when balancing future budgets. If we come out in the black, we are better for it. That is being fiscally responsible.</p> <p>This recession will not be over for State Governments next year.</p> <p>I was always embarrassed when as a member of a committee the budget had to be adjusted. I always felt I should have seen it coming and used more conservative planning. It is easy and more popular to get carried away with a department's wish list.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	Change the way counties are funded for mental and DD. Make it a rate not a set amount of money. If they can not be funded it will cost more in the long run.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Put a freeze on the Cat and Vision Grants. I realize some communities cannot build facilities without the grant money, but if I cannot afford to build a garage right now I have to wait until I can. Besides, some of the projects are for increasing tourism. Most Iowan's can't even afford to visit those sites with the cost of gas, motel rooms and food. And quit spending money on those ridiculous art pieces. Really, who in their right mind would drive to Des Moines to see a big spider?
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>I see a lot of comments about the AEA. Being a former employee I think the area that needs to be looked at the most is the Director's salary. A director gets his home internet service paid for a year in advance. Has a cell phone, an agency vehicle, IPod, Camera, an extra Annuity added to his salary, a laptop in addition to an office computer, etc? Trips to conferences in the winter to sunny places for only a couple days, and the golf clubs are a MUST! These are the kinds of expenses that need to be looked at. Why does the AEA feel the need to feed all the people coming to the facility for meetings? They could bring their own lunch just as they do during the regular work week. The merging of AEA's has not been a cost saving effort. A hard look at the increase in reimbursed mileage expense and the loss of time applied to the job they were hired to do would be a real eye opener to the general public. This is in addition to having to pay rent for a facility for the "merged" meeting and pay a catering service of the facility. Prior to the merge a local catering service could be used and a much reduced cost. If the administrator would actually take the time to talk to his education support staff, not just his directors, their service to the schools could be improved and the school districts would be more receptive to keeping the AEA concept in place. The board of directors seems to just go along with any request for salary increases and more perks for The Director. They need to visit the AEA and talk to the employees that actually do the work before they agree to all the information they are fed from the Director.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	The DOT oversees all of the secondary road projects, and the projects have to be approved and meet the state requirements. Why not eliminate the county engineers, and let the state go ahead with the projects. Would save counties a great deal of money, and the state, would be more efficient by not having to duplicate all the efforts for roads in the secondary system.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	The IDNR requested approval from the Environmental Protection Commission for a contract in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for the remodel of the IDNR education trailer, paid for out of the Groundwater Protection Fund. The Commission was touring portions of NE Iowa, having dinner in Fayette, Iowa, staying overnight, and meeting the next day. Why is the state spending that kind of money on an education trailer? Why is the commission spending the money to "road trip" for their meeting?
N/A	Miscellaneous	It is time to finally come to grips with the rural/urban issues, the need to improve the water and land and air quality and the energy solutions that are needed for our children's future. It is time to modernize Iowa's governance structure. 99 counties, untold numbers of school districts are all more administrative overhead than any of us need. Fundamentally we need less government, fewer people, less pollution and more collaboration among the elected folks who are supposed to be representing us. Vulnerable Iowans need protection and services, people need jobs in this state. Now is not the time to cut government services, it is time to do what FDR did and put people to work solving all these problems and building a new infrastructure. Bring back family farms that are sustainable and do not poison our land, our wild life or our citizens. I'm not suggesting a return to the days of old but, rather, a rational, non-greed based, non-corporate approach to living. Bring back small towns with thriving downtowns. Give us all access to high speed technology. Create a new future that actually allows our state and citizens to thrive.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Over the past 1.5 years, I have been working in a state government capacity at the University of Iowa hospitals and clinics. My particular program is funded by a federal grant. Having never worked for a solely government-funded program, I have to say I have been surprised by the levels of bureaucracy at the U. It seems to take forever to get things done or approved by the necessary departments. I would imagine this wastes resources, time and energy. For the past 25+ years, I have worked in non-profit agencies that may have had some federal, state and/or county/local funding sources, but never have I experienced such cumbersome ways of doing business as at the U. I do not mean to be critical, because our program is wonderful, as are most offered by the U's health care system. The people are very dedicated and capable. But the systems that have evolved over the years have resulted in a bureaucratic quagmire that should really be looked at by independent reviewers, in my opinion.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Marketing (Professional Developers) have gotten totally out of control with their expenses. They have meetings everywhere. They start with a golf outing the first day (which causes another motel room expense) then a speaker each day. Their "networking" has cost the taxpayer and business a lot of money.
N/A	Miscellaneous	For those of us who file our income taxes electronically, there is no need to mail us paper forms. Waste of paper and postage. Mine ends up in the garbage.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Combine Woodward and Glenwood into one facility. The one with least trouble with regard to resident care could stay. Better, send the money spent on these individuals along with them to programs closer to where they come from.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Require all drivers of larger motor homes to train, test and purchase CDLs. Many motor home drivers cannot back up their rig, pass safely nor maneuver in tight areas. This will not only create a safer environment but generate revenue in training and license fees.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Begin to use the extremely unpopular but cost effective health savings account option for state employees. If government wants to be efficient, they need to push as much of the cost of poor health back onto the people who have poor health; this is the structure and purpose of health savings accounts.</p> <p>Same with retirement. Get government workers onto a 401(k) 403(b) system where they are responsible to making to choice to save some of their own money in order to receive the bonus of matching funds from their employer.</p> <p>Last quit giving our pay raises to people whose salaries are paid for by taxes from people who haven't seen a pay raise for five years, or who are working for less and less each year as they are asked by their employers to pay for more of their health care and retirement.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>I am the Executive Director for an agency that provides services to people with disabilities. We are subject to a great deal of oversight. While oversight is essential, there is also duplication that, if avoided, could create efficiencies and save dollars.</p> <p>There are surveys/audits by the Medical Services Unit and also by SURS (Surveillance and Utilization Review Services). There are also other surveys/audits done on care facilities by the Department of Inspections and Appeals, and even audits done for licensing by the Department of Human Services. These are all done by the state. Could efficiencies and cost savings be achieved by combining these?</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>First of all, I am in favor of health care access to all citizens. However, from my position of ownership of a pharmacy, I cannot believe the money spent on ADHD kids in our county; nearly \$2,000 per month on one family that I serve. I am concerned that there needs to be oversight of family practice by specialists AND home visits to determine real cause for the ADHD (home environment in this case?) Also, stop making pharmacies use brand name medications when generics are available.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Government really needs to review those who receive Medicaid help. If you cut back on how many pregnant women and the quantity, we would save greatly.</p>
Human Services	Miscellaneous	<p>The state needs to look at some of the contacts that they have in the Medicaid field, and that means really look at the data and the continued need for the services. Is the Iowa Foundation for Medical Care necessary? Is the contract with Magellan for mental health cost effective or are we just making those organizations rich without any benefit to Iowans.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>It's easy to pick on schools and counties consolidation because it is so easy to see the visual special data.</p> <p>A HUGE inefficiency in Iowa governments is the significant, illogical and independence of regional or area or multi-county alignments of public agencies. Want some examples? DHS, SCS, DNR, Empowerment, ROG, CC, EA, CRD, EXT, JUD, C CRR, JJ, and RC&D - I could go on! - see why this is so difficult? 1. Little is known by the public about these regional/area alignments. 2. Agency independence. 3. Politics 4.Excuse is "we are different". 5. History 6. Protecting turf. 7. Multicounty funding agreements.</p> <p>Proposal: A thorough analysis is given to all state-funded organizations. And no the community college system boundaries set-up years ago is not the quick answer. As our economy has evolved, newer consumer and business travel patterns have emerged. I think we would be shocked if we found out how much time and traveling waste is present at the local and state level is due to poor alignment of area configurations.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	Enlarge the scope of items under the 5-cent bottle/can deposit to include juice and water bottles (both plastic and glass). Take note of Iowa's ditches and count the discarded fruit juice and water containers.
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>DHS needs to be broken down into at least 2 smaller operations. The mere size of the organization makes it unable to make timely changes or responses. Management style I've witnessed is micro-management and poor employer relations skills. This is a huge hindrance and continues to impede efficiency. Duplication of effort can be many times over. One request starts from a legislator and ends with several requests coming in from different originators.</p> <p>I came from the private sector and know that a profit driven company could not sustain itself with these management mentalities, poor organizational structuring and lack of ability to identify purpose, direction, and resolution to the services offered.</p> <p>I write this not to be critical but I truly believe we need to take notice of the real world managerial tools and processes and apply them to ourselves in our state government organizations.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	We need business incentives to stay in Iowa. Look at what is happening in South Dakota and in Nebraska they are bringing in jobs with new business. Iowa is not a business friendly state. I own a business and have been approached by both states to move with all kinds of incentives, tax breaks, and retaining money even relocation allowances. It is not more taxes it is growth that can revive our state. This is nothing new but falls on deaf ears when I suggest it to my representatives.
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Opinion: Budget reduction measure #4: Charge for state employee health insurance By: Ed Failor, Jr., President of Iowans for Tax Relief Date: Monday, November 2, 2009</p> <p>Last week, the possibility of renegotiating the current state employee pay contract was discussed by Governor Culver. However, neither the Governor nor the employee unions have stated they intend to reopen the current contract, an action which should happen without delay.</p> <p>The opportunity for more budget savings is within the State Employee Collective Bargaining Agreement. While I have already suggested the Governor implement a state employee pay reduction, the issue of health insurance for state employees should also be addressed.</p> <p>Right now, all state employees with a single coverage health insurance plan, and many state employees with family coverage pay no premium. This is an interesting contrast with Iowans employed in the private sector. According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, single Iowans in private sector establishments contribute an average total of \$756 toward their health insurance premiums annually and Iowans with family coverage contribute an annual average of \$2,524.</p> <p>Our state employees receive a tremendous benefit, which is a huge cost to Iowa taxpayers. Currently, state employee health insurance premiums cost taxpayers over \$300 million each year.</p> <p>The state-run hawk-i program, which is designed to provide health insurance coverage for lower-income Iowa children, requires families to pay a monthly premium based upon their income. Some lower-income Iowa families pay as much as \$40 a month for hawk-i coverage for their children.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>There is something wrong with the system when families on the hawk-i program are paying more for their children's health insurance premium than our well-compensated state employees are paying for their own.</p> <p>Governor Culver and the unions should renegotiate health insurance benefits for state employees. I propose state employees chip in a share of the cost of their health insurance. If 50,000 current state employees were to pay \$40 a month for their health insurance premium, this would result in an immediate budget savings of \$24 million.</p> <p>A savings of \$24 million would go a long way in preventing the potential layoffs in the Department of Corrections. Given the choice to pay \$40 a month for health insurance or head to the unemployment line, I'm certain many workers would choose to pay this small part of their health insurance premium.</p> <p>Asking state employees to fund a portion of their health insurance premium seems only fair when lower-income Iowans are paying up to \$40 a month for hawk-i, just to have their children covered. While many Iowans are out of work, struggling to put food on the table, and paying for their health insurance, it is a small thing to ask of our state employees to pay a portion of their own health insurance premium.</p> <p>It is time our state government begins to operate more effectively and efficiently. The way out of the budget crisis is to change the way the state is run, not use scare tactics and send more Iowans to the unemployment line.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>The Iowa Dept of Revenue from FY 04 to FY 08 for every \$1 invested in audit activities generated between \$8.60 and \$11.16 to the general fund. The budget cut of positions and savings of \$1.6 million means that the state general fund will have between \$14 and \$18 million less in revenues. It does not make business sense to make cuts in a dept that generates revenue for state.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>Please do something to make school lunches healthier, we are supposed to be the state that feeds the world and we feed our children junk food and fat.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>We need to get jobs going in Iowa and that means if we have to. Start with building bridges, roads, lakes, parks. Whatever we have to get money in the peoples hands. If they get it they will spend it.</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>I believe we need to keep the money in all of our Early Childhood programs, i.e.: H.O.P.E.S., Preschool Assistance, School Readiness, Stork's Nest, Child Care Project, DHS, etc. I believe these programs are a vital part of continuing to reach out to parents/children in the community, and to help them become better at what they do. After all, our children are the future of this blessed free country!</p>
N/A	Miscellaneous	<p>I feel that going to a 4 day work week for all state and federal employees would help our budget crisis out tremendously. If we would all be allowed to keep our benefits as they are, i.e.: all current full-time employees stay at full-time benefits, and all current part-time employees stay at part-time benefits. It is hard enough to find a job in today's economy crisis and pays well enough with good benefits. Being a county employee myself, and in a family with both parents working. I took this job not only for the good hours and nice place to work but also the benefits offered. So you see, It is so important not to change or decrease benefits of state or federal employees. I believe we have earned those benefits with our hard work and dedication every single day.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Miscellaneous	The legislature should restore funding for Public Safety and Corrections. A good place to reallocate funds from would be from the rich Regents. The disgrace of the \$130,000 University 'Disney Trip' is an example of wasted funding. How much more are the regents spending out of control?
N/A	Miscellaneous	Iowa needs to reinstate the vehicle inspection with state inspection stations. Every year to get license plates and must have insurance to cover the vehicles. This would solve many problems. I could list so many you would not believe. You can't smoke in a business why should you be able to drive a junk car that smokes and leaks oil etc. Check the price to take your car to a dealer and have it inspected. Yes Iowa can make money save lives and rid the state of CLUNKERS.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Regarding the comment "Absorb Workforce Investment Act programs into the Iowa Workforce Department Services instead of contracting out and having double overhead for administration." This is a nice thought, but Federal Law requires the contracting of these services and prohibits the work from being performed by state employees.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Veteran Benefits are Iowa's Benefits: Applying for and receiving Federal Veteran Benefits is essential to the Veteran and a catalyst to the County and State economy. There are thousands of Veterans who have not filed for these well deserved benefits. Though recent legislation has empowered the individual County Commissions, it is not enough. The legislation should give the Commissions sole authority to compensate Executive Director/Administrator. This would allow the Commission to hire and properly compensate the County advocate for Veterans. The Conservation Commission and Board of Health have this authority at present. Why does the State legislator allow this tradition to continue? The Federal Government sets aside millions of dollars for the benefit of Veterans. Iowa is at or near the bottom in its effort to secure these allotted benefits. Not having a properly compensated Director/Administrator is a thorn in the process. Monies secured for Veterans has three to seven times the root value and would help stabilize the County and State economy.
N/A	Miscellaneous	Every one in the state will need to take a cut, either in wages or in services. It is time we realize that things have to change. Tough decisions are being made. I think asking employees to take unpaid time off is sad but better than losing their jobs. We need to stay focused on the big picture and times will get better. Whatever you do, DO NOT put more items on the counties, balancing a budget should not happen by passing the buck. Make the hard decisions at the state level and don't expect to get more money out of the counties, they are hurting more than the state. We don't need more taxes we do need more fiscal responsibility from our state leaders. The counties can deal with cuts but not more responsibilities of supporting program the state can come up with and expect them to handle without additional financial support.
N/A	Miscellaneous	As you consider reform to improve government and curb costs please keep in mind that cuts to economic development programs will reduce state revenue and prohibit growth.
N/A	Modify Criminal Penalty	I think a provision ought to be added to the appropriate part of the Iowa Code which specifies that school officials cannot conduct strip searches. Namely that any violations of that law will be considered a felony that mandates prison time for any school employee who orders, carries out, or becomes aware of a violation of that particular law followed by a lifetime requirement to register as a sex offender, and heavy fines against the school district in which this takes place.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Modify Criminal Penalty	<p>Reference the structure of 321.J, the OWI section of the criminal code.</p> <p>Couldn't prison population be reduced if offenders sentenced to prison for possession of drugs be referred to a community in-patient program from 4 to 6 months with the understanding that walking away is escape followed by incarceration in a real prison? Drug use while in the program would give a similar result.</p>
N/A	Modify Criminal Penalty	<p>Stop the prosecution of victimless crimes.</p> <p>How much money is wasted on the prosecution of citizen's for simple cannabis possession? App. 75% of all drug arrests is for simple cannabis possession. I am 53, my wife is 47, and we like so many are so tired of the asinine and antiquated marijuana laws.</p>
N/A	Modify Criminal Penalty	<p>Make the first OWI conviction a simple misdemeanor with harsher punishment on repeated offenders. Keep fines and jail time high. This would free the court system up and be able to focus more on other cases. People would pled more often and not have long, drawn out court proceedings.</p>
N/A	Modify Criminal Penalty	<p>Decriminalize marijuana and perhaps other drugs entirely. The counties and cities would save millions in policing, prosecution and jailing costs. Court dockets would unclog, reducing the need for more judges and staffing needs in Clerks offices. The DCI Laboratory could focus on forensics for violent crimes rather than a growing six-month backlog of substance tests required for drug prosecutions. Non-violent drug offenders could be released from overcrowded prisons, halfway houses and probation caseloads, leaving space for those from whom society truly needs to be protected. Those would be cost savings.</p> <p>Adding a sensible excise tax similar to those in place for drugs like alcohol and tobacco could produce a minor revenue boom.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Make Chapter 905 that creates the 8 Judicial District Departments of Correctional Services, a Division of Chapter 904, under the Iowa Department of Corrections. The 8 District Directors could/should work directly for the Director of the Department of Corrections. The Administrative money saved by eliminating, times 8, the staff needed for personnel functions that would easily be assumed by the State.</p> <p>Within Chapter 905 eliminate supervision of serious misdemeanor cases except for Domestic Assaults. This would greatly reduce the number of probationers and allow for closer supervision of the more serious offenders. Serious misdemeanor cases go to the county jail if their probation is revoked so the State is paying for supervision of county cases. Eliminate pre-trial interviews like they have in the Second Judicial District or at least have all the districts follow the Administrative Code. Again, at the very least only provide pre trial interviews for felony and aggravated misdemeanors.</p> <p>Laws change the prison population more then programs do. Under Chapter 901.B self probation is allowed. Why not require that ALL serious misdemeanor cases where the defendant has no prior record be granted self probation instead of supervision to a District? Using kaleidoscope (a computer program already in place) a defendant on self probation who is rearrested would have this event reported to the County Attorney's office in which self probation was granted and revocation proceeding could be initiated.</p> <p>What are the salaries of the 8 District Directors and how do those salaries compare to Director of the Department of Correction? What ever happen to Art Small's report recommending reducing the number of Judicial Districts to 5 instead of 8?</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>1. Budget year same as the Federal. Therefore agency and programs would have to do just one report per year and the budgeting process would be more accurate. 2. A robust softy and health program to cut work comp. accidents need to find out how much money is being spent on worker compensation per year.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Cut back office hours down to 6 hrs.</p> <p>Make full time employees 30 hours per week.</p> <p>Do NOT provide FREE meals for employees.</p> <p>Provide more insurance assistance for people with disabilities so they can purchase hearing aids, plastic legs, arms, etc.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>I am unsure that an across the board cut was correct. Some state agencies are funded by appropriations and fees, some by fees only, others by just appropriation.</p> <p>Not all facets of state government are of equal need. The past actions by our legislative body to "spend whether it's needed or not" and with no available funding has come home to roost.</p> <p>The total budget must be re-examined and cuts made in truthfulness. The Values Fund and others like it have proved pretty much useless. "Stimulus" money, that we did not have to spend in the first place, has done little if anything to produce the desired long term results.</p> <p>Energy produced by coal id truly a need. The relentless and misguided efforts to stifle agriculture in Iowa will produce much higher food costs.</p> <p>Social Security, while needed, has been moved to the "sole retirement fund" for many. This was never intended in the original program.</p> <p>Schools do not necessarily need more money; they need support from parents, community, and the STUDENT to ensure educative success.</p> <p>For years we have tried to legislate morals, health, and ethics. We have spent vast amounts of money we didn't have. If Iowans don't want to take care of themselves as a whole, it is time to let us suffer.</p>
Multiple Subcommittees	Multiple Suggestions	<p>I have two suggestions for improving State government through spending cuts during these tough economic conditions.</p> <p>1. The State of Iowa and the Federal Government spend billions on welfare for the unemployed, underemployed, and disabled. While I have sympathy for those in that position, I believe it is prudent to cut these monies to all but the most needy and deserving. I believe random drug testing should be a requirement for any type of State Aid. It is a condition of my employment; it should be a condition for receiving my tax dollars that my employment provides. If you are found with an illegal narcotic in your system, your State aid is suspended for 6 months first offense, 1 year second offense, etc. (run it like the driver's license suspensions for OWI) The 10% across the board cuts for the State will undoubtedly require that numerous jobs in the public as well as private sector be lost. Isn't it better to keep the gainfully employed paying taxes, and the people who chose to not work have to pay for their decisions? The more people that are laid off, the less taxes received by the State, it's a simple concept.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>2. Tourism/Vision Iowa monies. I believe these programs to be worthwhile when times are good. I also believe these monies should be the first to be cut during difficult economic times. If a Town, County, or special interest group wants money to promote themselves or build a new tourist attraction during these times, they sure can do that, but not with taxpayer money. If they want the project badly enough, they will find the money or hold off until the economy rebounds, at which point these monies can be restored.</p> <p>3. The tone of this letter would lead any intelligent individual to believe I have a grudge against the welfare system in the State of Iowa and across the nation. I do not. I believe in personal responsibility. I also believe people need a hand-up at times, not a hand out. I do not believe people should be able to live off the welfare system. This attitude comes from seeing numerous abuses of the welfare system over the years. When I say abuses, I am not talking the per-se illegal activities listed in the Code of Iowa. I am talking about unemployed narcotics abusers, unemployed unmarried (multiple children) parents who use the system as their main employment, and illegal aliens working the system.</p>
Multiple Subcommittees	Multiple Suggestions	<p>With the understanding that Iowans are in need of state assistance during this "recession" time, our welfare system; i.e. Title 19 and Iowa Food Cards and Financial Assistance Programs are out of control.</p> <p>Many families have well exceeded the lifetime maximum usage set by the state.</p> <p>By providing drug tests to collect State Assistance will eliminate a large amount of self inflicted needs for assistance; state tax payers have drug tests for employment hence the states' ability to fund such programs.</p> <p>Title 19 is regularly abused because many card holders have no restraints for care. Many times recipients are visiting Dr offices weekly for minor concerns that are irresolvable (viral or minor scratches) by a physicians care (by visiting the Dr office allows parents to stay home from school or work with an excuse from the Dr. or the card holder is only providing the Drs office with T19 information and disregarding additional coverage from other healthcare insurance causing program money to be spent unnecessarily. This takes months and even years to resolve.</p> <p>Many people have or are moving into Iowa from another state for the simple reason; their previous state funds are nearly or have run out. Let's make this a more difficult process.</p> <p>Adult College Students are utilizing excessive funds for college tuition and living assistance for several years. Many have changed degrees multiple times without achieving a degree to ensure they are able to continue to receiving state aid.</p> <p>By the State's Acknowledgment and resolution of this major money sucker, our state will have minimal financial concerns.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Start with the prison systems-no television-especially cable-use chain gangs-put some of these people to work on state projects. Second stop giving welfare to those who can not prove they're U.S. citizens. Third raise taxes on alcohol-you did it for tobacco why not alcohol. Fourth-the law makers can take a pay cut. Stop frivolous spending on things-"if it's not broken, leave it alone".</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>De-criminalize Marijuana and save costs on the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Revoke the AWA, which costs States hundreds of millions to implement, enforce and defend in the State Supreme Courts.</p> <p>Return the sex offender registry to its original purpose of keeping track of only violent offenders and remove those who are non-violent. Many studies have shown that community based interventions are cheaper and more effective, as well as reduce recidivism rates to 3-5%. This will lead to dramatic savings and allow law enforcement to better keep track of those who are dangerous.</p> <p>The others would become productive, tax paying citizens again.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boost efficiency of Human Services by eliminating unnecessary paperwork. For instance, why does the department continually (meaning 3-4 times per year) require that a PERMANENTLY DISABLED person re-submit paperwork confirming they are still disabled? What part of disabled doesn't the department understand? 2. Redraw district maps to lower the number of paid legislators. 3. Eliminate the position of Lieutenant Governor, along with that entire office. If the Governor can no longer serve, then the leader of the House should sit until a special election has been held. 4. Like California, do rotating non-paid days off for non-public safety positions. Unlike California, this should include the Governor. 5. Put a % of the pay of legislators "at risk" like in bonuses where certain operational marks must be met in order to receive that pay. The marks could include things like passing a balanced budget, receiving a certain approval rating (i.e. the public counterpart of a customer service rating), etc.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>I think that anyone receiving state aid should have to take the urine test, most or all of the workers that earn that money have to take the test. The government employees should take a salary cut and that there needs to be more accountability for the money paid to the ex-spouse that is getting the child support.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Combine the functions of the department of revenue and department of management. Fully embrace technology for submission of reports, etc. from smaller political subdivisions. Combine the administration of MPFRSI and IPERS into one agency.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>These are my suggestions to help address Iowa's short and long term budget issues. These are common sense legislative issues, but VERY unlikely you will do these things.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get Iowa out of the car rental business for its own employees and turn that function over to private enterprise. 2. Consolidate 99 counties into about 20 regional centers. Even though a lot of people including legislators will loose their jobs, things have changed since the mid 1850's when it took a day to go into town and back to do government business.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Do away with the weekly parties that are done by the DHS workers at tax payer expense.</p> <p>Get rid of the customer service hotline for DHS. The workers have way too much down time. It takes three times as long to explain everything over the phone compared to just a few minutes with the worker who KNOWS your case.</p> <p>Eliminate internet access by workers in the courthouses. There is way too much internet surfing going on while people wait to be waited on. Do away with their weekly parties also.</p> <p>Cut police forces by 10% in cities above 10,000 people. There are many cities that have way too many policemen on their forces.</p> <p>Ask professors at colleges to take a 20% cut & the dean of students take a 50% cut in pay. There are making too much money & many students want to go college & can't because of continual tuition hikes & then raise teacher pay and dean pay at the same time. Also, ask coaches to take a 50% cut in pay. Make the legislators work year round, laws are not getting thru that should & this state would be better for it. They are sent to Des Moines for a reason, do the job!!</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Need To Cut Complete Departments, Agencies, and Institutions Etc. Some Agencies Are No Longer Needed. We No Longer Need Four Mental Hospitals. Look At The Census Of Each Compared To 25 Years Ago. Same Goes For The Two Hospital Schools. Across The Board 10% Cuts Only Hurt The Efficient Departments. Should Reduce All State Wages By 15%. State Employees Are No Longer The Underpaid Group They Used To Be.</p> <p>Should Consider Selling All State Farm Land Owned By The State Institutions. This Would Be A One Time Thing But It Would Put Several Thousand Acres Back On The Tax Rolls Helping The Counties.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Move all state employees to a defined contribution retirement plan instead of a defined benefit plan. 2. Halve the number of county courthouses and accompanying staff and services.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Eliminate wasting money on fences like the new ones on I-35 between Ames and Des Moines. They are a true money pit since they have to be repaired constantly.</p> <p>Reduce pay for all executive branch government employees by the same percentage you reduce the state budget, since your responsible for creating the budget.</p> <p>Eliminate some merit positions at the three Regent Universities and replace with student workers who have work study funds.</p> <p>Purchase cars for the State Patrol and DOT that are more fuel efficient.</p> <p>Start eliminating all the luxuries that prisoners get in prison. It's prison not a hotel.</p> <p>Eliminate each county having driver's license offices and multiple cities having office.</p> <p>Review the needs for DOT vehicles. They have large vans and full size pickups going on the road daily with ONE person in them and little or no supplies.</p> <p>Don't mow the roadsides, interstates and other roads so often. Other states let the roadsides grow back to their natural height.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>Eliminate any schools that have fewer than 15 students per class. It's high time we got rid of having so many tiny schools and realized we have to do it now.</p> <p>Raise hunting/fishing licenses for out of state guests</p> <p>Term limits for all elected officials in Iowa</p> <p>Put up a toll on some roads near the borders of the state</p> <p>Do a better job overseeing government assistance programs. Welfare, food stamps, etc all are still abused and sap the system of funds.</p> <p>Eliminate all travel by executive branch employees and staffers.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Require unpaid furlough days of all state employees. 10-30 unpaid days the next year or two rather than to see any competent employees lose their jobs.</p> <p>Reduce thermostats to 65 in the winter and no lower than 75 in the summer - maybe open windows.</p> <p>Stop supplementing ethanol.</p> <p>Evaluate housekeeping needs, for example most office wastebaskets don't need to be emptied every day, carpets don't need vacuumed every day.</p> <p>Are we providing free coffee, meals, for our legislators while in session? If so, why - the tax payers have to buy their own food.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cut-out fraud by reforming welfare and disability. 2. Share and or eliminate vehicles just sitting. 3. Use hybrid cars for most employees. 4. Go to 4 - 10 hour day work weeks. 5. Forced retirement for those who qualify. 6. Eliminate all COOP and part time positions. 7. Combine job duties since short of help. 8. No overtime. 9. Hiring freeze for all positions. 10. Quit building new highways and repair what we have. 11. Switch to CFC light bulbs for all offices. 12. Cut out all out of state travel. 13. Cut down on meetings where folks have to travel. 14. Reduce senior management and legislative positions. 15. Combine districts. 16. No taking home state cars/pickups.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>17. Get rid of unneeded equipment and work stations.</p> <p>18. No more COLA percentage raises make it flat amount.</p> <p>19. Let more employees work from home if desired.</p> <p>20. No more overspending and blaming it on the world economy.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Eliminate 99 counties - maybe 5 as with the congressional districts this will eliminate 94 different county boards - may help with the judicial end of things too. Have 5 mental health agencies which then could disperse services more equitable and probably serve more people. (less top administrators)</p> <p>Eliminate 50 Senators and 100 Representatives. Cut in half or at least 30/60. Cuts salary and staff and still having the citizens elect their officials. Have them work more than 100 or 110 days as well to eliminate the agencies from having too much control and power.</p> <p>Eliminate 364 school districts - consolidate smaller schools, and eliminate the top end. Utilizing the AEA's more with running schools districts. They have superintendents making a nice salary as well.</p> <p>If we went to using the AEA's for curricular and even business (budgeting) issues and having them doing the curriculum writing, etc, maybe we would get more uniform instruction and better accountability for our money. Transportation is another issue and we would have to address this as well, so districts with a lot of travel will still have the same dollars to spend for instructional purposes as the city schools with less transportation. Put all of the educational people in to the same insurance pool. Possible savings.</p> <p>Having one student information computer system for inputting data for the state, etc. we would get better data, quicker data and probably more accurate data.</p> <p>Combining protection agencies under one umbrella (state police, county sheriff's, local city police) could we have better protection and better response?</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug testing for welfare recipients • Pay cuts for elected officials • Make every budget expenditure transparent online • Pass out of state concealed weapons reciprocity & licensing such as Utah to collect income. • Reviews state contracts and compare to private sector wages. • Stop mowing entire medians & ditches

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>In times of a serious budget crisis, I cannot believe that the State of Iowa is still looking at building 2 new institutions. (This is like us being personally bankrupt but then building 2 new homes!) It really makes no financial sense. If ISP can't hold the MAX prisoner, it can certainly hold Med or Minimum and we could save the building dollars for something else. (In other words re-define where our Super Max, Max, Med/ Min / and Special Needs offenders are housed.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I also believe that many State workers would be willing to do furloughs so that others could keep their jobs. • Increase offender pay for stay. • Stop paying offenders to attend treatment classes. Provide them with necessities and give them job opportunities to make money for extras.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>One of the most important areas to 'regulate' is the union wages, benefits, i.e. Health insurance, pensions, etc. for the public servants. Why, oh why, do we taxpayers have to keep paying more and more for these people every time their contracts renew, when the private sector has to bite the bullet and take less, or put up with the status quo? It is almost a 'given' that state, county, local workers are 'entitled' to increases in all these things. Politicians should dig deep and come up with some common sense, for a change and do something about this.</p> <p>The State of Iowa should also address tort reform. Other states have done it.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School administrators are overpaid, and there are too many of them. School administration should be handled by (paid) school councils. Anyone in administration should be teaching also. They need to be connected to the realities of their profession. 2. Able-bodied/able-minded people who receive welfare in the form of housing, food, or money should be earning that remuneration by doing the state's work. 3. Habitual offenders should not receive welfare, should not be allowed to enter Section 8 housing, and should not be babied by our state. I have also heard that Illinois offenders come to Iowa because they see our state as inexperienced in dealing with crime. They need to go back home. They are costing a lot in prosecutions and court time, probation officers, etc. Can we send them to their home state to serve their time? 4. Schools should not have to deal with large discipline problems. There need to be major consequences for students who disrupt the school; behavior problems cost money that we do not have. They tie up people, because class sizes to have to be very small, cause repairs to need to be made to schools.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>We pour a huge amount of money into DHS. When I worked with these programs I noticed they were set up to fail. The whole system needs to be revamped. Medicaid is really built to keep people poor. I was required to teach these people and they were required to listen in order to get their 'free stuff' but, they weren't interested in learning because it never got them anywhere. There are people addicted to the program rather than getting them off the program. For example, other states charge a VERY small fee (\$3-\$5) for each office/ hospital/ outpatient visit. They see a HUGE reduction is misuse of the system. Education really is the key, but people listen much better when tier money is a stake rather than the 'states' money.</p> <p>Also there is an area of education I think needs to be reassessed. The AEA has really lost it's ability to be a positive change agent in this state. Instead of 10% loss across the board, I really think the AEA should be changed or cut out completely. I know of schools that have dropped them completely and are so much better off without them. My personal experience with</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>them is that they are WAY behind the times and quite frankly, very uneducated when it comes to disability. They told me Dyslexia doesn't exist. I then paid \$1200 out of pocket to have testing done at the U of I and they said the AEA is negligent in even making statements like that. What a waste of our tax payer money! They really only help those that fit into their little pigeon holes.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>EBT cards should be used for BASIC needs and not for eating meals out somewhere. If it is not groceries then it should not qualify. EBT should be for "LEGAL" citizens of this country only.</p> <p>How about making the deadbeat fathers responsible? Recoup the money they get away not paying their kids support. They make the kids then they need to pay for them, period. If they don't make it a FELONY and throw their butts in prison because they are already non productive for their children, so at least they can make license plates or furniture. Put them on chain gangs and keep the parks clean, counties and state parks and roadways clean. And any money they would be paid would revert back to the state for support of their children.</p> <p>Time for people to be responsible for their actions!!</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>One place to start would be to end the tuition grants for those attending private universities. With three great public universities, why would the state pay people to go to a private institution? Makes no sense. If they want to go, fine, but don't expect any tax dollars to help.</p> <p>Another would be to end the state support of community colleges. These revolving-door institutions do not promote economic development; have "faculty" who are woefully under-trained, and graduate students who promptly fail to either do well in real college or start careers that actually create economic growth. Yes, we need dental assistants, but not as much as we need entrepreneurs with a real education that will go out and create new companies that employ people.</p> <p>Judicial reform. Spending on criminal justice, especially prisons, is truly wasted. It's not an investment in that it does not promote economic growth. Instead, it may well be a money-losing proposition in that locking up some low-level offender may permanently ruin that person's ability to earn an income, thereby increasing the welfare rolls. The state loses all around.</p> <p>While I'm compiling my wish list, I might as well add two that people hate but Iowa desperately needs.</p> <p>Ruthless consolidation of school districts and massive consolidation of counties.</p> <p>I know that small-town identity is tied up with the local school, but this sappy sentimentality is literally bankrupting the state. What's more important, wearing the school colors 6 Friday nights a year for football, or actually making sure that our schools are properly and efficiently run?</p> <p>And 99 counties, for a state with 3 million people in it? Seriously? The era of travel by horse and wagon is over, in case you didn't notice. There's no reason to have so many county seats. Frankly, I don't think Iowa needs more than three counties: East, Central, and West. This would simultaneously serve to massively reduce the size of the legislature.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	Repeal the tobacco tax of 1.00 per pack, eliminate 1/3 of DAS since it has grown far faster than it's necessary, take a good look at why we don't go back to a single director in DOC instead of multiple directors, NOTE: there is no need for regional personnel in DOC since the state has only (9) institutions, and tighten the belt, suspend the "new" kitchen at MPCF and stop using the old adage "its all ready planned". Condense all female inmates to ICIW until "it's already planned" expansion is up and running and shift resources to the men's institution. Stop this states unspoken position as a sanctuary state for illegal aliens. Go after employer's that hire illegals and enforce Federal law.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I understand the across the board cut, HOWEVER, for Vocational Rehabilitation Services the cut results in a much larger cut given the percent of federal match for the state dollar. This should be taken into consideration. 2. If we would improve the amount spend on duplicate programs or efforts, we could save some money. But no one wants to give them up. 3. We spend much more money on programs for people with disabilities that keep them segregated and dependent than we do on services and supports which would let them be more independent and self-sufficient, plus tax-payers. But once again, it is the folks providing the service who are making money off the backs of individuals with disabilities.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	I would cut all travel, parties, expenses, cut at least two layer of management. I would cut any travel for the Governor and his staff. I would park all vehicles and trucks that employees drive. They can drive their cars or car pool in their cars like we do and we pay to drive our car and we pay for our own gasoline. Plus no more buying new vehicle/trucks. I can't tell you how many times I have seen one person in a state car. You need to keep the folks like Iowa State Patrols, Law Enforcement and Crime labs in force to do these jobs for the public. Quit pulling money into the state capital building when we have hungry children to feed and shelter the state of Iowa. I could continue on but I'm your website is going to crash with all of the emails from Iowans that care what happens with the budget that is wasted.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	I am all for furloughs or four day work weeks before layoffs. Also have they ever thought of combining state offices of the same county into one centrally located building instead of paying rent for multiple offices? Early retirement with the stipulation that the people will not be rehired once they accept the early retirement package.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Reports I have read estimate that illegals use \$700 million to \$1 billion dollars worth of Iowa services annually. Even if it is closer to \$500 million a year, government cuts would be unnecessary this time around if we would just enforce the laws on the books to encourage the return home of illegals. There is no excuse for Iowa citizens to be losing their government jobs at this time!</p> <p>In addition, Iowa revenue should employ 1 person just to check on families that claim 4 or more dependents. Owners of restaurants tell me that all of their Hispanic employees claim 6 dependents, even if they have no kids, and therefore do NOT pay any taxes! And most of the money they make does not stay in Iowa. Go to the Perry or Marshalltown banks on Friday around 3 and see how long the lines are of people purchasing money orders to South America. 10% of all Mexicans (the 6th wealthiest country in the world!) live in America and support their corrupt government with US dollars! Why does the Iowa tax payer have to be an unwitting accomplice to the continuation of a corrupt economic system for the 6th wealthiest nation in the world!</p> <p>Why are Iowa citizens losing their jobs to aid and abet the corrupt economic systems of South America! The illegals seem to know how to play our system better than Iowa citizens! What network is telling them how to run the system? Can we investigate that and arrest some of the accomplices to income tax fraud!?</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Change state offices' customer service hours: closed Wednesdays, 8-5 Mon. & Thurs., 12-8 Tues. & Fri., until 2011; allow workers time to make daycare/ travel changes. Reduce all state salaries 5% Jan. 2010 thru Jan. 2012. Early release for non-violent crime/first offense prisoners with good behavior – same for probation. Allow parties to civil actions to help in paperwork prep if possible. Enforce building/business/rental codes – no delays, collect fines quickly. Child support: Iowa's child support arrears totaled \$954.2 million in FY2008. Not counting excise, state, federal, etc., taxes on things like utilities, phones, gas, etc., a 7% sales tax on that would total \$66.8 million. Give NCPs one warning, one opportunity, to pay or face full prosecution – stop waiting 90 or 120 days. Enforce full accountability for NCPs' spending in arrears cases – automatically examine tax records/bank accounts. Stop waiting 30 days after a child support payment is late before contacting employers and/or NCPs. Wait 5 business days. Implement the same software almost every other state uses to automatically assess interest on arrears. Enforce the PRWORA provision where, if employers refuse to garnish after being properly served, they are liable for the amount of child support they refused to garnish. Enforce the Deadbeat Parents' Punishment Act. Reduce the amount of time to establish a support order which will reduce the pressure on state help programs when support is not paid. Furlough non-emergency state workers one day/month, same day. State lunch hour 12-1p, 4-5p, or 2-3a, depending on shift; shut off all lights/equipment in non-emergency offices. Renegotiate state insurance premiums – health, auto, liability – or find new providers willing to negotiate. Change Iowa Care: partner with local clinics/hospitals throughout the state instead of reimbursing everyone in Iowa driving to U of I 32 cents/mile. Use TEMPORARY tax incentives to encourage Iowa employers to increase hiring – more workers = more tax revenues, or, raise taxes on high profits to offset unemployment and state help programs. Fine the daylights out of businesses employing illegals or businesses that pay any employees 'under the table'. Reduce school days one hour every day – let teachers move from room to room instead of students; reduce DMV by 2 hours/day – 7-1</p> <p>SaMT; 1-6 WThF. Park the non-essential state auto fleet for one year; pay 'garage' rate on insurance to avoid lapse, future premium increase, and protect the investment. Provide certain types of state workers with state auto plates to preserve their privacy. Use salt to remove snow on roads – it's faster, easier, safer, and reduces pothole/weather damage to roads.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop spending money on artwork, like the giant sculpture added outside of the Iowa Supreme Court, and focus those funds on keeping the court operating instead. 2. Ask those who are nearing retirement to voluntarily retire, or be removed forcefully, instead of having those same senior persons in charge of laying off newer, lower paid staff. 3. Outsource more government services to 3rd party vendors, and provide more online services. 4. Require proof of citizenship before granting state benefits to individuals and wasting the money on those who are not contributing to the system. 5. Require criminals to repay their debt by working off the burden they have caused society, providing for public works. 6. 4 day work week or more unpaid furlough days.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>In the wake of the severe economic status at the State level, my 1st suggestion would be to LIMIT the travel budget for all State Officials. It Is True There Is Nothing Better Than To Have "In Person" Meetings, Forums, Etc. However, When We Are At A Critical State, We Need, So To Speak, To Move To Plan B. With All The Available Technology, Thought Should Be Given To Using These Resources And Reduce Travel Costs. I Am A Retired State Employee After Serving 30 Years And Lived Through Many Reductions In Force, Etc. There Was No Choice. So The Same Should Apply At The Legislative Level. Frankly, Everyday Media Reports A Great Number Of Personal Appearances Of Representatives Throughout The State. At The National Level Each And Every one Of Us Need To "Limit Our Spending". The Same Should Be True At The State Level When We Are Experiencing Budget Shortfalls.</p> <p>Secondly, the money spent for contracting Consulting Firms Appears To Be Extravagant. With All The Administrative Leaders In The Various Departments Of State Government, Hopefully We Have Capable Leaders To Study Such Issues. Hopefully cutting these expenditures will result in more efficient and more effective State government.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Stop the Deferred comp to state employees until the financial crisis is over. The state is matching up to \$75.00 per month, the state cannot afford this, and state workers have IPERS which is a better retirement program than most have.</p> <p>Hold staff accountable, let management discharge employees that call in sick frequently, state tax payers would be very upset if they knew the dollar amount that was being paid on overtime to cover these employees that just does not show up to work or call in under FMLA to get an extra day off. Immediate pay freeze.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Drug testing for all households receiving any type of state benefits, (i.e. food stamps, housing) Make them also show proof of having lived in Iowa for a minimum of 12 months and if not a citizen, show proof of being registered for citizenship classes. Remove cable and internet from all prisons. Require all those 65+ retire from state government.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>We should run the state and county governments like a business would have to do in tight times. First' take away some of the paid sick and casual days employees get, freeze pay raises, put a cap on how much vacation a person can get, cut back to 4 day weeks staggering work force to cover the whole week, reduce some of their benefits. It is time that state & county employees feel the same pinch as people working in factories and other small businesses.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Quit giving prisoners free education, make them work and earn it. Take away TV's and frills for them. It's about time we start looking at big cuts, and I mean big cuts in benefits and salaries for the State University coaches, and all other University employees. Put caps on what they can earn in a particular job and cut vacation and sick days. Make them pay into a 401K and faze out IPERS.</p> <p>The state of Iowa needs a call hot line so people can call in and report disability and welfare being abused.</p> <p>It is time we make sure the people are really disabled or just pure lazy and know how to work the system. Welfare recipients need to do mandatory drug testing and be expected to do so many hours volunteer work for their city, county or state or attend so many hours of classes to show that they are trying to benefit themselves and get off welfare. All welfare recipients should also have their tubes tied after the 2nd kid because allot of them apparently know they get more aid if they have another mouth to feed.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>I know that these are trying times but the state has raised taxes on the tobacco products why not also raise the taxes on the Alcohol beverages also this would help on the money partly and also hopefully cut down on drunken driving. Other states have also done this as another source of income.</p> <p>And this is the one you don't want to hear but freeze your wages so no one gets a raise for the next 2 years that would also help bring in some money the state and us taxpayers would not have to spend.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>I worry about the knee jerk reaction to "cut state workers wages" Most state workers really don't get paid that much and would really suffer with a wage reduction. What I don't see going on through all this is the higher paid people getting their wages cut. If wages have to be cut let's start cutting wages of those who earn \$100,000 per year and more. A 10% reduction in those wages would have less economical hardship that a 10% reduction on someone who earns let us say \$30,000 per year. This would mean the governor and the legislators would have to have their wages cut as well.</p> <p>We don't need to lay off anymore people. What sense is there in that? You reduce the number of people who actually do the work, but keep the pencil pushers who do nothing. You reduce the number of people who pay taxes. People who are laid off can't pay their bills, lose their homes and they and their families end up on the welfare roles.</p> <p>Cutting the wages of the wealthier people would not cause as much hardship. They would still be working and supporting their families and (sometimes) paying taxes.</p> <p>What we don't need is "restructuring" as historically all this does is result in higher paying administrative jobs and less people to do the actual work.</p> <p>The state could look at other ways to reduce costs just by looking at how resources' are used. Last weekend I saw 3 large State of Iowa vans driving in Ames with just one driver in each - no passengers. This isn't very cost effective.</p> <p>Stop building new buildings and take care of the old. Even if the money is allocated for a new building - if it is needed else ware use it for something else. I see lots of new state buildings going up, but no money or jobs going to maintaining them so they deteriorate.</p> <p>There are a thousand ways to cut costs if you would just look at your own wastefulness and quite punishing the lower and middle class because you are greedy and inept.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It would be a good time to cancel all training that is not essential to state employees. This often times incurs overtime that is not necessary. Cultural Diversity training will be going on for several months and requires a large amount of overtime. Staff has had this in other training, it really isn't new. 2. There is no need to purchase new vehicles as often as they have been purchased in the past. 3. I hope the AFSCME members agree to vote to pass up their 1 and 2 percent pay raises. This would be a significant savings. Last time this was done, line staff voted not to take their raises and management increased their numbers with raises. That upset a lot of employees. 4. Early retirement is an excellent idea. I know of several employees that continue working for the health insurance alone. <p>Thank you for asking for suggestions from the residents of Iowa. Who better to ask then the employees of the state and the residents of the state!</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School Vouchers. 2. Cut spending on windmills and inefficient "green energy". 3. Cut out the fat (assistants for assistants and overlapping or redundant positions). 4. Furlough days for state employees who are not in critical occupations, such as public safety.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>I have a few suggestions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instead of State layoffs, cut all state employees wages by 5% (I am a state employee and would rather take a cut then see anyone laid off.) 2. Make our prisons, prisons, why should they eat better, have better exercise equipment, cable and all the other prison "perks" when law abiding citizens can't afford them. 3. Limit training and travel expenses that the state pays for. If someone wants additional training that won't help their current position, make them pay for it. 4. Limit the number of times we pay the legislatures to go home.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>The Governor and Members of the Iowa Legislature should be required to take and pass a financial literacy class. Revenue projections should be based on realistic assumptions, not "padded" figures for the government to justify overspending. The government needs cut wasteful spending and prioritize the most important areas, specifically education and public safety. Across the Board Cuts protect our legislature and governor because they can avoid making tough decisions. Accountability is a lost concept in our society. For example, does it make sense that in some cases it is more beneficial for someone to stay unemployed than look for work because their unemployment compensation pays better. People are living off the government with no care, concern, or motivation to become self sufficient. It is time to cut those programs off or at the very least demand and require accountability. It is not fair for those working hard and supporting themselves to have to support unmotivated people and government officials worried about re-election. I think IPERS needs to be revamped as it puts an unnecessary burden on government employers. Defined benefit plans are a thing of the past. If state employees are lumped in the same pool for their retirement benefit (IPERS), why are they not pooled together for other benefits such as health insurance. Maybe pooling all of these employees together could mitigate some of the extreme increases in health insurance costs and other benefits. All in all, I think that financial experts (people educated in finance and accounting) should be engaged every year to assist the Iowa Legislature and governor in the budget process. These experts should also make up the Revenue Estimating Conference. Most people with any common sense could see the gloomy economic signs a long time ago and the reduction process and other preparations could have began much earlier. Instead, our governor and legislature has put our State in a disaster position. They are forcing us to jump out of a plane without a parachute, when they could have given us a parachute a long time ago to help break the fall.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Streamline delivery of services by the DHS. Reduce number of Service Areas to 5. Increase Supervisory ratio up to an average of 15:1. Close the "less than full time" county offices. Drastically reduce travel to Des Moines utilizing ICN and Webinars for meetings and trainings.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	I see no problem in bringing back a state tax on food, say 3 to 5%. Most individuals employed by the state, etc. would much rather pay higher taxes than lose their employment. Also regarding the Department of Corrections, as an employee at Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility as an Officer, we are understaffed as it is. Cuts could be made by not paying offenders, but having them pay for incarceration as most county jails do. This would probably reduce criminal activity and deter recidivism.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	Legalize marijuana and tax it. Increase taxes on alcohol which hasn't been done for years. Repeal the sex offender residential laws. Consolidate counties. Eliminate the yearly legislative session. Tax churches and non-profits.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	Eliminate the use of the GAX transaction document in the I3 Financial System to hide mismanagement and illegal contracts and purchases. Put teeth into the Accountable Government Act. Do better than a veil of protection for whistle blowers; make every employee a Mandatory Reporter on abuse of tax dollars. Eliminate the incentives for frivolous end of year spending to bolster budget justification. Control use of staff augmentation and private consultants to circumvent FTE limits.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	Combine the school superintendants for small school districts. Also realign the legislature to reflect current population which hopefully decreases the numbers in the house and senate.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install a triple redundant system that automatically turns off all primary lights in every state building at 5PM and turns them on at 6AM. 2. Go to a 4 day public school week and focus the school day on - reading, writing, math, science, athletics, technology, and alternating topic - art history. 3. Eliminate all paper documents and go to an electronic "simulation" of paper documents. No more unnecessary trees to cut down.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enact term limits 2. Hold only bi-annual legislative sessions 3. No need to allow public employees to unionize 4. Consolidate all public employee health care plans into one plan. 5. Require that 411 pension and IPERS employee contributions automatically rise at same rate as the employer rate. 6. Require that all public employee health care premiums rise automatically when rate increase so that they absorb an equal share of the cost increase. 7. Eliminate tenure at all Regent institutions. 8. Merge all Public safety operations at ISU, UI and UNI with those operated by the cities of Ames, Iowa City and Cedar Falls.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>These ideas pertain to budget cuts for DHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Discontinue the "continuous Medicaid eligibility" policy. *Stop paying for illegal aliens labor/delivery bills/ER bills *Discontinue medical transportation reimbursements to Medicaid recipients *Close less than full time DHS offices *Furlough state employees
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Iowa Dept of Corrections Inmates should get generic drugs if possible. Fort Dodge Correctional Facility does not use generic brands.</p> <p>State employees - single health care insurance should not be free anymore. Some of the cost should be shared with employee. Same with spouses who work for state with single coverage on both. Even a minimal charge would add up.</p> <p>Stop using allocated budget monies by the end of the year just because its there and buying things not really needed just to use that money.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Reduce state employees' pay and slash tax incentives to businesses. Salaries of managers in state government should be reviewed.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>No raises for this next year for ALL state employees, let that trickle down to all county and city employees as well. The private sector can do what they want, not our tax dollars going directly to them. Also, stop giving unemployment benefits to people who have been out of work for over 2 years especially those that quit their job willingly and are NOT required to job search.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>I am 80 years old and I am more than a little disgusted with the MONEY situation in Iowa. There is a very simple solution to the problem. Simply make ALL state employees take a temporary 10% (or whatever is needed) reduction in salary. Why should the 100's to be laid off do all the suffering when we are all responsible? By doing this all would be able to purchase food, pay their house payments and provide for their families. Cut Capital expenses to make up the additional short fall. I understand this would not go well with the unions, but it is about time someone takes a stand and do what is best for all.</p>
Education	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Reduce the number of teacher in-service days. Most teachers say they are of minimal educational value. Some complain they are mostly a waste of time and money. Most would rather have a shorter school year. The number of in-service days has become excessive. Cutting these in half would cut spending without hurting the education of our students.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Per ounce tax on beverage alcohol. 2. Apply a sales tax to items purchased at farm/household auctions (even if the rate is lower than the existing sales tax on new products) and exempt non-profit/charity auctions. 3. Re-evaluate the mission and size of the Iowa State Patrol and DPS as a whole. State troopers perform no function that could not be handled by sheriff's offices or city police departments. ISP, in fact, does not perform many of the functions that other law enforcement agencies do. If ISP is maintained at present staffing, assign additional functions such as sex offender registry compliance checks, compliance and curfew checks on parolees and probationers etc. This could eliminate

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>the need for the High Risk Unit of the department of corrections. The HRU is vastly top-heavy with supervision, and their mission could easily be accomplished utilizing troopers. Assigning these tasks to ISP could also lighten the burden of other agencies charged with these responsibilities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Institute a method of collecting fines and court costs and impose meaningful sanctions upon violators who continue to operate automobiles despite having had their privilege suspended, revoked or barred several times over. (Mandatory jail and/or vehicle forfeiture at a minimum.) Such measures could be as simple as disallowing bail bond to any person who is not current with fine and court cost payments. Many people are repeatedly arrested and are able to secure bond money at a moment's notice, but have paid nothing of what they owe in fines, court costs, child support, etc. 5. Consider property tax on houses of worship (they enjoy the same government services and protection; roads, fire, police, etc.) as other structures. Such a tax could be at a lower rate for religious or non-profit entities. After all, may such structures would have a very high assessed valuation if they were businesses or homes, and enjoy total exemption from property tax.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Save money. Reduce the number of county government offices. Hold legislative sessions every other year. Use ICN for meetings instead of traveling to DM for months at a time. Lower taxes to encourage more businesses to come to Iowa. Invest in "green" energy.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>I worked for the IDNR for 5 years, driving 70 miles one way, four days a week, and loved every minute of it. Some of the things I learned to reduce costs are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Don't pay for lunches. People take their lunch, or go get it, when they stay in the office. Being in the field should not be subsidized, as it's an expected part of the job. They can bring a lunch or purchase their own. 2. Use less snail mail and more electronic submissions (email, scans or faxes). IF the recipient desires or is required to have the document placed in a file, the cost to print is less than the labor (time) it takes to gather, place in an envelope, and put postage on, as there are sometimes dozens of letters being sent. The cost to print is much cheaper than the labor and material it takes, in addition to the postage, to send through the USPS. 3. To be fair, the field office I worked in did not allow employees to go to facilities for inspections if they were near there home, while driving a personal vehicle. The field offices encompass about 16 counties. Many of the employees would drive by hundreds of potential inspections a year but could not stop. There are many who would accept to be paid mileage, go to the facility while on their way to work, or home, and save the state mileage AND labor due to the reduced time to complete inspections (less travel time), the reduced fuel costs (mileage will only be for one way) and the state could reduce the number of vehicles required in the field. 4. Place a limit on how many sick days can be 'cashed in' with retirement. It's a benefit that they can stockpile them to use should the need arise. Paying them for not using all their sick days guarantees an expense. They should have the integrity not to abuse it. However, to ensure this can be controlled with those who don't, allow the requirement of a doctor's note as an option, after so many sick days are used per rolling 12 months. 5. I flexed and did four ten-hour days. It can be done by most, if not all, state branches in some way. 6. Stop paying rent for such inefficient offices. The state could allow the field workers to be assigned a group of counties for a quarter, rotating the group each quarter. In doing so, if the group is in or near the residence of the employee, they could

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>7. drive their own vehicle if they live closer to the inspection site than the field office, and get paid mileage. Most inspectors do 2 - 3 inspections when out anyway. They would absorb the wear and tear, the state has reduced vehicle costs, and, with the ability to go to the field, less space would be needed for all employees. The state could either purchase, or build, smaller structures for office sites.</p> <p>8. Consider allowing field office employees to work out of their homes. There could be bi-weekly meetings to touch base. The supervisor, administrative staff, and records could be stationed in a much smaller and more efficient office, and all vehicles could be replaced (except the Emergency Response vehicle) with mileage. Inspections are tracked and, if work is not getting done, then the same steps that are in place now for changing this could be used. The field personnel could be issued a magnetic logo for the vehicle when in use for state purposes. With the use of portable lap tops, documents can be saved or sent electronic to an office database.</p> <p>The DNR required a 40 hour HAZMAT training with annual refresher courses. The on-call personnel could NOT get near any emergency spill incident in regards to cleaning the site up. Nor did the field offices have any hazmat suits to use if they wanted to. So, this expense seems to be extreme for the payback. IF there is need to have hazmat trained personnel in the field, consider having one or two only. There could be a reduction in inspection requirements (1/qr?) for those who have additional duties like this, as an incentive. This would give expertise to those in this position (better recall ability), save the state thousands of dollars in initial training costs as well as refresher costs (including hotels and travel times), and keep the DNR covered with capable ER personnel.</p> <p>9. Reduce the number of group meetings. There was a video system being used that should be encouraged, to reduce lodging and travel costs for meetings.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Get rid of the Community Care Contract which has been pushed by some in DHS which is supposed to be offered to families who are not the "population served" in child abuse assessments. There is no way to track if families are contacted by the agency, and what Community Care can offer social workers already do for the families. It is a duplication of services.</p> <p>Stream line the juvenile court system from preventing parents from showing up at court without an attorney to only ask for one on the day of court. Why have tax payers pay for a parents attorney when they were served notice ahead of time and court documents tell them to make application five days before court.</p> <p>When parents wait until the day of court you have a Guardian Ad Litum for the children, you have the Social Worker 3 who did the child abuse assessment, the Social Worker 2 who will take over the case after the CINA hearing and adjudication is complete, then you have the County Attorney or the Assistant County Attorney, the court reporter, and the Juvenile Judge plus any witnesses that have been asked to testify. Court maybe running behind so everyone has to wait any way only to get into court to have a parent to ask for an attorney. Think of all of the money being paid out to only have to come back in a week or two do to it all over again.</p> <p>Have DHS supervisor's read reports and make any changes or corrections online instead of on paper. Reports are typed and a copy is made and given to the supervisor to review. It is given back to the worker to make changes and additions if needed online. The reports with written corrections is then discarded to end up in a pile of wasted paper which from March of 2009 until July 2009 has ended up being a full case of copy paper to only be shredded. This is a fact as this past summer I measured the stack of paper and it was almost two feet tall. What a waste when we have the technology to use the equipment we have been proved such as the computers sitting on almost every state employee's desk.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Mandate legislatively that all counties considering increasing jail capacity conduct a thorough study having specific study steps of the prospect for a regional facility involving from 2 - 5 counties, dependant on needs and geography.</p> <p>Other states have mandated the move to correctional regionalization to overcome the parochialism, politics and tradition of an archaic system derived in the 18th and early 19th century.</p> <p>The Iowa Department of Corrections, National Institute of Justice and a University corrections/public administration program and experts in the field could design the criteria.</p> <p>This won't happen without legislative mandate and probably some statutory authority change. But, if we cannot regionalize jails we likely won't regionalize much else. With modern transportation, communication and technology regionalization of jails is achievable with potential for much increased efficiency and substantial cost savings.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Cut the number of county governments from 1/3 to 1/2 as many as there are today. In this age of technology we do not need 99 county recorders, treasurers, etc.</p> <p>Cut the number of high schools in Iowa in half. The idea of bleeding all schools so we can keep high schools open in every small town in Iowa is almost comical. The idea the legislature from Des Moines had about 99 high schools in the state is a place to start. 99 may be a few to few but the idea needs to be explored to save money. Let all the small communities keep their elementary schools, they are cheap to run and the children do not have to travel long distances by bus. But it is definitely time to look at closing the many small rural high schools in Iowa. It will take some political guts by rural legislators to make this happen.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>I think if the State would offer an early out package to people that have been working for the State for 25 & over years with a health insurance (single or family plan) a lot of people would jump on this. Also the person that thinks ALL state employees get meals paid they do not work for the State. Also if you get rid of the computers, TV, VCR's and any other luxuries the prisoners have. They are in Jail for a reason and they should be punished not rewarded.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Reduce unnecessary expenses for roadside maintenance and put that money toward the state and county park personnel.</p> <p>Require all counties to reduce mowing to save money, soil, and runoff from roadsides. Plant only native trees and perennials in the future on state and county property instead of annuals and exotics that need replanting.</p> <p>Require all personnel cuts to reduce administration the same dollar amount as lower level employees. One vice president salary at a University replaces many janitors in salary. (Do not allow consultants to replace position requests rejected). Do not allow bonuses in departments that will have layoffs.</p> <p>Review all consultant requests and verify expertise is not already in the system somewhere (one of the Universities?) Examples: The UI hospital has cut too many lower pay people and patient care may be hurt with less maintenance and housekeeping. Mason hired consultants to do what she had requested from additional VPs after they were denied by the Board.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Cut down on number of counties and consolidate services. Keep the police, fire and EMT's, we really need them. Cut out some of the top administrators in education, and keep the teachers, get back to basics. Don't just cut out 10% on everything, some things are more important. Postpone any projects that aren't immediately needed. Good luck, we are counting on you.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Sell some of those expensive DNR vehicles.</p> <p>Raise the cigarette tax.</p> <p>Eliminate programs that are not absolutely necessary. That as much as declining revenue got us in this mess.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Please consider reviewing the role of the Department of Economic Development. After many dealings with the agency I have come to believe that they have lost focus on doing what is right for Iowa. All too often their actions benefit out of state companies at the expense of Iowa taxpayers. (Movies anyone?)</p> <p>This also goes for the Office of Energy Independence. They have a \$24 million dollar budget and 21 full time employees. Where is this money going and who is benefiting?</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Reduce the paychecks of elected officials, reduce their expense budgets, quit supplying money to big business and redirect to common citizens via tax breaks and more incentives, reinvest in ALL forms and levels of education, create a private citizen committee that would have access to all public spending records and let them make suggestions, quit putting in "Pet projects" into spending bills, actually listen to those who elected you since they would have non-politician minded ideas that would really work.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Do not go forward with layoffs. All that will be accomplished people drawing 60% of their wages through unemployment while not putting money into the economy. Overtime will increase and you basically will spend the same money for less work. This is cycle we do not want to start. It would be better to open the contract, offer furloughs and possibly reduce salaries. Quit purchasing new cars for corrections. Buy surplus vehicles from other states. Quit forcing mandatory training on employees that is redundant and will not likely be used. Quit using outside consultant firms when your employees have the best vantage point for suggestions. Use ICN for all meetings. Strictly limit state travel and training.</p>
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Stop printing publications and have the available for purchase on the internet if you want a printed copy.</p> <p>Eliminate cell phones for everyone that doesn't need to be connected to state government 24 hours a day.</p> <p>Combine technology departments at different levels to save on personnel and equipment.</p> <p>Focus on reconstruction of existing roads before building any new 4 lane roads in the state.</p> <p>Resist the urge to spend because there is some matching grant available by another governmental agency. (i.e. 90% grants) It is still spending money.</p>
Human Services	Multiple Suggestions	<p>Within DHS—</p> <p>*There needs to be a single authority for mental health & disability services. Right now, community services are one place; institutions another; and Medicaid (funding) in a third. It makes the system disjointed and not always on the same philosophical page.</p> <p>*Make the single cost report for providers a reality. This will save time and expensive auditing costs and be more accountable to state & local government, therefore, more accountable to taxpayers.</p> <p>*Take this opportunity to streamline policy across all entities and reduce number of assessments, conflicting requirements, etc. that take away from services to people.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	All training that is not required should be cancelled due to the excessive overtime it causes. All meetings should be completed via the ICN to avoid travel expenses and overtime. The number of online purchases has increased a great deal; add sales tax to all online purchases. Discontinue the practice of purchasing new vehicles on a regular basis. All cuts can not be made on the backs of the state employees. There are some great ideas listed here that residents have shared, I hope they get reviewed. They are from people that live and work here and care about this state. It makes so much sense instead of hiring a consultant firm from out of state that costs thousands of dollars to figure out a plan for saving money. Thank you.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<p>I have several suggestions that would help.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop spending money we do not have! 2. Eliminate the state income tax and switch to a limited sales tax based system! 3. Stop raising property taxes 8% every other year. Soon property owners will no longer be able to afford a home or improve an existing property. 4. Stop dumping good money after bad in our education system. We are building new gymnasiums and athletic fields while our graduation rates are declining. 5. School administration salaries should be regulated by the legislature and be based on performance of our senior high test scores in very specific subjects, i.e.; math, science, English. 6. Make English the official language of our state! 7. Require fees be paid by either plaintiff or defendant in domestic violence charges being filed and dropped. Add additional fines for any arrest made and charges then dropped by victim for domestic violence cases when couple has more than 1 previous encounter with law enforcement. Fine should be equal to wages of all responding officers. If arrest and trial/conviction, no fees will be assessed. 8. Reduce Governor's salary by 25% and each member of legislature must reduce any part time employee's hours by 10% and each full time staffer must also reduce salary equal to reduction taken by Governor. 9. Suspension of pension contributions of legislature, judges, executive branch for a minimum of 6 months. Additional salary reductions and pension reductions may be enforced.
N/A	Multiple Suggestions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enforcement of Code 904.808. This will put offenders to work and keep dollars in the state. 2. Utilize the ICN more for online meetings. This can reduce time and money spent on traveling 3. Operate vehicles for a longer service life.
N/A	Privatization	Phase out the Iowa Communications Network. The private sector can provide services cheaper and more efficiently. The state can sell the pieces of the ICN that have value and shed themselves of the maintenance and upgrade expenses.
N/A	Privatization	Look at State University "services" such as on staff custodial, electricians, etc. The work is often sub-par at a high price. If you get quotes from an outside contractor it is usually MUCH cheaper. We don't need them to be state employees necessarily, subcontract more if not all of the work.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Privatization	I am a Private Investigator & Process Server in Waterloo. We have a Deputy Sheriff whose sole responsibility is to spend his eight hour shift serving papers. I have had attorneys & clients who have told me that they have had to postpone court hearings because the sheriff did not serve the paper in time. Isn't there a better use of this deputy's time & the county resources? I suggest that the state & county government could save money by outsourcing this job to private companies such as me & other PI's/ Process Servers. We are cheaper, faster & would save money by reducing the vehicle (gas, oil, tires, etc.) expense of the county's cars. The State would receive our sales tax payments as revenue & our year-end taxes as revenue as well. It would be a win-win situation for both entities. I have, in the past, served a paper for the Attorney General. I served this paper the same day that I received it.
N/A	Privatization	Let the private sector do the jobs thru competition that the governments should stay out of. i.e. healthcare
Human Services	Public Assistance	Prioritize Title XIX so that residents who are born and live in Iowa receive it first.
N/A	Public Assistance	Drug test before approval of any social service, food stamps, day care, etc.
N/A	Public Assistance	Require Welfare and Title9 recipients to work 1 hour for every \$1000 aid they receive. Use 508C and religious organizations as the vehicles to have those who benefit from the system give back to it.
N/A	Public Assistance	Require proof of citizenship before providing any form of government service or money.
N/A	Public Assistance	Stop supporting "Illegal" (do you understand Illegal's are criminals since they have broken our immigration laws?) immigrants. We're sick of supporting these people.
N/A	Public Assistance	Cut ILEA. Focus on a set training curriculum and have community college teach and test them on state curriculum. Have a few people audit colleges making sure they are following and testing appropriately. Iowa State Patrol receives everyday they work a stipend to eat on. When on routine business have them pay out of pocket like every other state employee. Travel away from their post for training would get a food allowance. Look at easing some of the code inspection. There are currently not enough inspectors for the electrical inspections and now they want plumbing to be inspected too. We don't have the money to pay for these positions. Code is great but if you don't have enough people to enforce it and they cover to large of an area, are they doing any good? Enact a program to make incentives to get people off of state aid and make it harder for those moving to the state to get it. Many people are moving from Illinois to Iowa because it is easy to obtain state aid in Iowa. Don't believe me; ask cities like Iowa City and Cedar Rapids.
Human Services	Public Assistance	Why don't you look into the welfare system and see how much money could be saved there by eliminating fraud and bureaucratic waste? I think we could save some money there if we have people who receive state assistance be required to do some service work. The amount of hours required would be determined if they are employed or not. This would also give people a sense of self worth. This idea won't be considered as it is totally against what the Democrats believe in.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	Public Assistance	Stop all support to illegal immigrants, including Title 19, education (all grades) housing food stamps. Illegal immigrants are breaking the law fine them
N/A	Public Assistance	NO MORE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OF ANY KIND FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS. Our government is dishing out public assistance (food, shelter, medical) to illegal aliens who are breaking the law! These people work for cash, sending most of that money back to Mexico. Meanwhile we have Americans struggling to make ends meet. Does this make sense to anyone? It's time we start taking care of our own. If anyone wants to come to the US legally and work, that is great, but you will not be supported by the US!
Human Services	Public Assistance	There needs to be more consolidation of our school districts. It is unreasonable that teachers are getting paid to teach a class of 8 children in an elementary class when there is over crowing in others. By consolidating less money will go to administration and more to the children.
Human Services	Public Assistance	Get RID of the "Rent Reimbursement" program - it is not getting to the right people - there is so much FRAUD there in our town. Promote welfare recipients to work - pay for their daycare, but make them get out into the work force. Keep the welfare recipients out of the CASINOS. We see all too many people gambling that are getting welfare of some sort.
Human Services	Public Assistance	I would like to see more resources made available for persons with brain injury, epilepsy, developmental disabilities, and other medical conditions. In particular, I would like to see Law Enforcement Officers trained as to how to recognize and respond to persons with these conditions. Proper response by Law Enforcement Officials would also help prevent lawsuits resulting from improperly responding to persons with medical conditions.
N/A	Public Assistance	Reduce welfare, food stamps, EBT cards, hawk-i "Benefits" by 10%, just like all state departments have to reduce. The state employees are going to suffer with furloughs. The towns and cities and state government will suffer with less money to spend by them and less taxes coming in from them. So those who receive "benefits from the state should be a part of helping balance the budget, instead of taking so much from it. On Friday at a Hy-Vee I saw a women use her EBT card to get a cake from their bakery for over \$40! That's a big cake!! And not what I think was a staple of food. Cake mixes are on sale for 88 cents. Every day I see people using EBT cards to by bottles of pop, chips, snacks. Is this what they are for? Maybe this is why so many are obese. I thought this program was for FOOD, not junk Food. Time for a change.
N/A	School District Reorganization	The state needs to force the consolidation of smaller school districts and provide incentives for larger districts to invite the consolidation. The amount of small school districts in Iowa is costing the state too much money.
N/A	State and Local Reorganization	Create a centralized location in the office of the Secretary of State for all liens to be filed electronically instead of filing in each county. Would simplify filing and remove duplicate efforts in 99 counties.
Multiple Subcommittees	State Reorganization	Review the table of organizations at all departments. It seems we are getting top heavy with supervisors and lead workers in agencies. In some cases, supervisors only have 5 or 6 employees under them while others can have 20 or 25 under them. This especially seems to be the case in the DOT where they try to combine all supervisors and employees under the highway division and then divide it out to make it look like supervisors all have the same amount of employees under them.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
N/A	State Reorganization	<p>My suggestion is based on Utah's four day work week. I received a letter from the Governor suggesting that it wouldn't work for Iowa and that it might affect the services needed for Iowans. If that was true, then why is it so successful in Utah, and why are other much bigger states, with many millions more people needing services like New York or California suggesting the idea of experimenting with it?</p> <p>Iowans needing services will adjust to the new schedule and you can always start out with a hotline for people to call by leaving the phone number on a sign at the door of the office or as a voice message on the phone. Utahans' have adjusted even to the point that they're thinking of getting rid of the hotline.</p> <p>The four day work week is applied to wherever is needed. Not every government employee will work four days a week. So it's not a black and white issue. The suggestion will make it possible so that employees won't have to be laid off, or at least not as much.</p> <p>Plus, it will enhance the personal and family lives of the employees. Which is the total opposite effect of the layoffs, because at least the four day work week plan enables the families to still have money coming in to spend. The more money that is spent by such families, the better off the economy will be in the state. The layoffs will only cut back on spending by such families.</p> <p>For Culver to suggest that it would affect government services in going 4 days a week is contradicting to his idea of laying people off because the layoffs will affect services much more so than going four days. I still have the letter from him.</p> <p>http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=373225</p> <p>Monday, February 02, 2009</p> <p>Four-day workweek grows on Utahans</p> <p>By Amanda DeBard, Special to Stateline.org</p>
Education	State Reorganization	<p>Make sure the Department of Administrative Services is supported for the role it was set up to do. Move all state administrative functions to be under DAS.</p> <p>This is an excellent time to pick the low hanging fruit at the State Board of Regents institutions. The Regents should transfer all administrative functions to be under DAS. The Regents would still have personnel available locally, yet resources (\$20 million), could be redirected to local school districts. Eliminate duplication of administrative services at each institution. Eliminate the Regents costly administrative initiatives. DAS can manage the Regents administrative services for savings that state K-12 school districts can use now!</p>
Education	State Reorganization	<p>Has anyone in the state legislature ever taken the time to evaluate the enormous AEA budgets and the necessity for such a political waste in education? A very well kept secret from the taxpayer. The Heartland AEA employs more people than reside in 10% of our Iowa towns, and, most of those employees are salaried at 10,000 over the regular classroom teacher. Who is directly responsible for the child's education? WHY? What do those state AEA employees accomplish? The directory (larger than a small town telephone directory) has consultants for everything imaginable. WHY classroom teachers and administrators are professionals, and we hire very expensive AEA people to "run-around" to school districts to train our teachers? (At taxpayer expense). Why does this continue and grow? Our school districts are struggling. Close AEA's and not only save money, but our individual school districts would flourish with only a fraction of what the AEA's waste. I know the</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		argument for their existence, but the time has passed and the growth and waste has multiplied beyond effectiveness. There is a better and less expensive way to accomplish higher goals. AEA employees create a need and promote their own jobs. I would too if the end result was 90,000 a year. The numbers are absolutely staggering and very irresponsible while our children receive very little benefit. THERE IS A BETTER WAY, just look.
Education	State Reorganization	Libraries play a crucial role in meeting the informational needs of Iowa's citizens, particularly in our struggling economy. Iowans use their libraries for job searches and completing applications online -- some for the first time. Classes are held across Iowa in public libraries to learn how to use computers. These are two of the most popular needs of Iowans being met by libraries right now, but the list can go on and on. 85% of the public libraries in Iowa serve communities with populations under 5,000 and often library staff is hired without previous experience. Training and consulting is provided through the State Library and the Library Service Areas (LSA) (located in seven regions across the state.) This training and consulting is essential, particularly to small libraries. In the past the LSA's have been targeted for elimination to save money which can have a disastrous impact on small libraries. Rather than this, I would advocate for the Library Service Areas to be merged under the administration of the State Library. Instead of 9 long range plans there would be one. Instead of 8 different people paying bills and performing clerical duties there could be one. Instead of 8 different and independent Boards there would be one Commission. Instead of several methods to provide back up reference questions and inter-library loan transactions, there could be one. There would be continuity of services and training statewide from which all libraries and ultimately Iowans would benefit from. This cannot happen without funding. Although it would appear cost savings can be realized in a method that is more efficient and streamlined, the State Library wouldn't be able to absorb this service without the accompanying funding; their budget has been slashed in recent years. In summary, moving LSA services under the State Library will result in greater efficiency, continuity of training and service to libraries, and possibly cost savings.
Justice System	State Reorganization	Eliminate the Judicial District Department of Corrections, all 8 of them, and they can be absorbed by the Department of Corrections. Also, eliminate the Board of Parole.
Education	State Reorganization	Consider combining the University of Iowa School of Library & Information Science with the University of Northern Iowa Division of School Library Studies. The U of Iowa program, though endorsed by the ALA, is fairly weak. Shutting it down and replacing it with the UNI program would make it possible to concentrate resources into one excellent program rather than two weak ones. Geographic considerations are less and less important as library schools, nation-wide, are rapidly moving to Internet-based course delivery systems. Iowa's current configuration, two schools within 90 miles, is conceptually obsolete, ineffective, and extremely expensive.
Economic Development	State Reorganization	Absorb Workforce Investment Act programs into the Iowa Workforce Department Services instead of contracting out and having double overhead for administration.
Justice System	State Reorganization	Eliminate the middle man and put the Department of Correctional Services back under the Dept. of Corrections where it had previously been. This is just a waste of money to have a separate Dept under a Dept with managerial positions and wasted resources

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Education	State Reorganization	Move the Board of Regents Institutional administrative services personnel to the Iowa Department of Administrative Services agency. The Regents can then contact with DAS for required services. The former regent's personnel can remain at the Regents sites. DAS can then consolidate and streamline the support the regents require.
N/A	State Reorganization	Reduce the many, many, many different IT departments within each department to ONE. DHS, DPD, AG, etc...put them all under DAS ITE
N/A	State Reorganization	I don't think Lee County needs two court houses.
Education	State Reorganization	Combine Community College administrative units. We don't need high paid administrators at each one. Also look into the golden parachutes these CC presidents are getting upon retirement!
Education	State Reorganization	Please do away with the AEA. I have NOT met anyone who thinks they manage their budget well, much less do any service to the education dept. They really are a un needed service. The schools can easily hire their own Special Ed. teachers for the amount they have to pay to have AEA doing anything at the school. They have the cushiest jobs around!!!
Justice System	State Reorganization	Combine Community Based Corrections with the Iowa Dept of Corrections. DOC would be able to absorb operations and maintain services. In addition, the state would be able to reduce the amount of administration (eight separate Depts. of Correctional Services) which would result in considerable savings to us, the taxpayers.
Education	State Reorganization	Iowa's Community College Districts (15) should be consolidated into a smaller number. Administrative heads earning \$200,000 in salary and benefits are an unnecessary duplication. In addition, student transfer policies to state regent's institutions would be facilitated by having fewer administrative units. Reducing Administrative staff would provide great savings with no reduced student services. In the Iowa Valley District for example, there is a Provost for Marshalltown Community College, Provost for Ellsworth Community College, and Provost for Iowa Valley Continuing Education, in addition there is a Chancellor over all three Provosts. It seems strange to need a "chancellor" for a few thousand students. Also, the large number of districts enables "fiefdom" battles between adjacent areas when there should be cooperation instead.
Education	State Reorganization	Merge the boards and operations of community colleges and the area education agencies. It would save a bunch of administrative costs. Also, control the outrageous salaries of AEA personnel.
Justice System	State Reorganization	Change the 8 judicial districts Corrections back into a state entity run out of Des Moines like before 1985. Can you imagine how many overpaid supervisors would be eliminated!
Ways and Means	Taxes	Correct the Iowa Sales/Use Tax law to ensure that "all" Iowa State Credit Union pay sales and use taxes on goods and services, the same as other Iowa State Financial institution do!

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>The state is FORCING me to subsidize the liquor industry. I am resentful & disgusted about this. You apparently did not know that the cigarette industry has paid in \$77.7 MILLION more tax dollars than what the liquor has paid. If you do not think so please contact me & will give you my references.</p> <p>I don't smoke or drink. This is not a one time occurrence. This is going on EVERY YEAR! Please, just think what an additional \$77.7 MILLION DOLLARS EVERY YEAR could do for WE, THE PEOPLE in Iowa! There is such an emphasis on the cigarette industry that should also be placed on the liquor industry. I have never seen, heard, or read of an instance where there has been a fatal car, plane, train, bicycle, motorcycle, boat accident that was caused by someone smoking a cigarette!</p> <p>Question: What have you got that is more important than addressing & raising the liquor tax equal to the cigarette tax? I HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY THE LIQUOR INDUSTRY IS A PROTECTED CLASS. Are you, personally, afraid of or intimidated by the liquor lobbyists to not take them on and MAKE THEM PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE OF TAXES? Please, help me to understand why, WHY do WE, THE PEOPLE OF IOWA HAVE TO SUBSIDIZE THIS DESTRUCTIVE INDUSTRY TO THE TUNE OF \$77.7MILLION DOLLARS EVERY YEAR?</p>
N/A	Taxes	<p>Require all tax credit expenditures and tax cuts include a fiscal note that extends the revenue effects out to 5 years. Require all tax expenditures have offsetting cuts to built in spending for the first 5 years of the expenditure.</p>
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>All colleges (students or teachers) in the state of Iowa should not be allowed to make their checks out to the college when buying food, gas, or any other personal items and used as a charge till it is cashed by the school that it is made out to, so then the person writing to check can take it off of their taxes as a school contribution like is done in Fairfield, Iowa with it's college. At the local Hy-Vee checkers are trained by Hy-Vee, how to make-up these charge slips and then the office lets the college know how much it owes for the food and is reimbursed by the college. This practice is costing these town tax dollars from all business that participate and I have been told it is a common practice for town/cities with colleges in Iowa but I find it just wrong.</p>
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>Expand all tax compliance. Audit taxpayers so everyone pays their fair share of taxes not just the honest folks.</p>
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>Why not make the farmers start paying sales tax on machinery, parts and the propane they use to dry their soy beans and corn. The policy was put in effect for the small farmers and guess what, we no longer have small farms. They are multi-million dollar operations now. It's time they start paying their share. The farmers get more welfare than the actual people on welfare.</p>
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>How about farmers paying sales tax on their equipment. All the rest of us do. They don't even pay tax on softener salt. Take from the poor and give it to the rich!!</p>
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>Flat Tax: Eliminate the overly complicated (compared to every other state tax in the union Iowa's is the worst!)And move to a flat tax. By taxing consumption/services the government will be able to eliminate 90% of the State IRS saving hundreds of millions of dollars annually. By moving to the flat tax, red tape, waste, etc will also be eliminated and everyone will be taxed proportionately.</p>

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
Ways and Means	Taxes	1 cent per oz. tax on any product containing corn syrup.
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>I don't know why everyone needs to "share" this pain. When you make cuts across the board, everyone suffers, even the students, whether it's K-12, or college students. You make cuts, and more students cannot attend college and have fewer opportunities in grade school. Instead of cutting everything, has anyone thought about raising revenue? At least raise revenue so that important services (education for example), does not have to suffer. When we spend more money on alcohol than we do education it says something about our community. What's the harm in raising taxes on alcohol to help off-set the priority programs. If Iowa really did value their youth, they would help education, not harm it like they are doing now. This is why Iowa loses so much talent, and until I see Iowa addressing this problem, they will continue to lose talented educated people such as myself when I am done with my education. I don't care if your republican or democrat, I care about our community, and what is best for Iowa. This is why I am independent. Who can solve Iowa's problems the best way and not the political way?</p> <p>Here are more revenue raising ideas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 10 cent deposit instead of 5-might get more people to recycle also. 2. A 5 cent maximum gasoline tax. Get it now before it goes up again! 3. Alcohol tax - When's the last time that was raised? 4. Tobacco tax again- At least Iowa will be healthier cause more people will be forced to quit. <p>These are just a few ideas, so as long as the money is used wisely and not wastefully. A healthy Iowan is preventative care, not treatment. There's a huge savings there. Maybe a tax on fast food, imagine all that revenue even if it were just 5 cents!</p>
Ways and Means	Taxes	<p>All of the sales on the internet for Iowa residents should carry a State of Iowa Sales Tax. The State of Iowa would gain a lot of income and it would even the playing field for local merchants.</p> <p>The Iowa Housing Policy Roundtable held six regional meetings between June and July 2009, resulting in FIVE BIG ideas. One recurrent theme at these meetings was the need to address Iowa housing issues in a coherent way.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION ONE: GOVERNANCE/LEADERSHIP</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Currently there are three state agencies through which federal and state dollars are funneled, each with its own set of programs and requirements. Even Iowans who work on housing issues as professionals expressed frustration at the difficulty of accessing funds and understanding the various programs for which their own project may be eligible. 2) It would benefit Iowa to review housing policy in context, because housing has such strong impacts on the health and education of Iowans. Housing has long-lasting effects on our employment opportunities and access to transportation and needed services, especially important to lower income Iowans. 3) The Iowa Housing Policy group urges our Iowa State Assembly to review the agencies responsible for housing in Iowa. We believe there must be a better way to develop coherent planning and policy that literally affects Iowans "where they live" and which would make it easier for the dedicated staff at each of the affected agencies to do their jobs more effectively and efficiently.

(Part II) Public Suggestions for Improving State Government From August 31st through November 24, 2009

Subcommittee	Subject	AnswerText
		<p>4) Thank you for your efforts to improve state government. Iowans appreciate your understanding that now, more than ever, it is vital to improve program impact and save dollars wherever possible. The Iowa State Assembly can make important changes that will favorably impact the lives of Iowans for many years to come, and we thank you for having the courage to make that effort.</p>
		<p>Mandatory retirement for any government employee with 30 years or more tenure. Reduce sick leave 2 hours per pay period. 1 day per month furloughs all departments. Use alternate energy (wind and solar) for all government buildings. No overtime work 4 day work weeks and use rotations. Consolidate schools with less than 500 students. There is a small school south of Des Moines that spent 3.8 million for a football field and track with Astroturf. While stimulus money was used it was facility marked and should have been better spent. Have 1 superintendant for each 3 districts, 1 principal for each school, and 1 secretary for elementary, middle, and high school. Increase tax on alcoholic beverages. Get rid of appointed positions Governor Culver has made. Stop paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to out of state consultants. If you must pay for common sense advice then at least hire locally. Make the Workforce Development criminals pay back the money they stole including the wages they took while in office. Sell their assets if needed. Fire all the translators in all departments and do not pay to have literature translated in printed materials. These are but a few things but the list is infinite without using layoffs.</p>
		<p>On the State of Iowa budget gap: I suggest that all state 'service contracts' without exception should be re-negotiated to cut at least 10% in cost (including the salaries of management). Many contracts should just be terminated all together after a realistic cost v. benefit review. Many were obtained illegally anyway. Spending limits should also be placed on 'general contract' purchases of goods; anything over \$10,000 should require DOM approval AND competitive bid.</p>
		<p>In addition to eliminating a bureaucratic layer by putting the Department of Correctional Services back under the Dept. of Corrections, it is also time to eliminate the parole board.</p> <p>This is a needless board which many states do not have and the expertise is already in the Dept. of Corrections. We are wasting money on a needless board</p> <p>From experience, the Board of Parole uses the Community Corrections facility as a "dumping grounds" for 3 or 4 months. By doing this, many people who could really excel and profit from the Community Corrections opportunity, are languishing in prison.</p>
N/A		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Live within your means. 2. Stop spending more than you are taking in. 3. Budget according to actual expenses. Don't round down. 4. Pay off what you owe. 5. Invest in small businesses by making IA a right-to-work state. Not 49th in new start ups. Remember: small businesses employ 78% of Americans. 6. Don't let judges legislate from the bench. They can run for office: house or senate. 7. Keep the lines of communication open. Transparency, transparency, transparency. 8. Remember you are public servants who work for us. We'll be watching & voting.